■ METRO / A25

Pacquiao denies ex-lover's charges in counter-affidavit

■ BUSINESS / B1

Strong peso is threat to exporters hit hard by rising currency

■ SPORTS / A30

RP's Marcos-era sports czar Mike Keon plans to reclaim title

■ 2bU! / C1

VAT times: Fabulous finds not over P100

SolGen quits; aide claims pressured by Malacañang

By Michael Lim Ubac and Armand Nocum

SOLICITOR GENERAL ALFREDO BENIPAYO RESIGNED yesterday in the midst of a major administration battle in court to defend the legality of President Macapagal-Arroyo's emergency proclamation.

An official at the Office of the Solicitor General told the INQUIRER that Malacañang forced Benipayo to step aside.

SOLGEN/ A8

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, March 15, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 97 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Batasan 6: Gov't witness should wear 'bayong'

By Michael Lim Ubac and Blanche S. Rivera

A COMEDY PRODUCTION!

IT WAS A POLITICAL DRAMA hatched by "Malacañang Productions" complete with a wardrobe consultant and featuring a modern *Makapili* as its central character.

BATASAN 6/ A9

'We hold nation together'

AFP admits role in keeping GMA in power; Joker says it's the new opposition

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Philip C. Tubeza

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE Philippines yesterday acknowledged its crucial role in keeping President Macapagal-Arroyo in power, warning that the nation would fall apart if it gave in to pressure from various power blocs seeking the President's ouster.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the President had practically become a "hostage" of the military.

"Hostage? In a sense, yes, the President (is a hostage), without (her) admitting it. Every move that she has now (taken), she always asks the military and then the minority (politicians) just keeps on blabbering," Arroyo said in a news conference.

"The one calling the shots now is the military," said Arroyo.

Col. Tristan Kison, Armed Forces spokesperson, told reporters that the military had been the target of destabilization "because we are one of the strong pillars holding the nation."

"If we break, the nation will collapse," Kison said.

He said that the Armed Forces should all the more adhere to the chain of command "especially now we're at a crisis."

WE HOLD/ A6

EXCLUSIVE FOR COUP PLOTTERS ONLY: Inside Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, double concrete walls topped by barbed wire enclose the newly constructed detention quarters for the alleged military rebels out to oust Ms Arroyo. But Army chief Lt. Gen. Esperon prefers not to call them detention cells but "secured transient quarters." Whatever, it's interesting to note that right across the road is the estate of ex-President Estrada where he's himself under detention. JOAN BONDOC

Award-winning radio show axed; PCIJ harassed

By Norman Bordadora and Philip C. Tubeza

AN AWARD-WINNING RADIO PROGRAM has become the first casualty of what Sen. Joker Arroyo described yesterday as President Macapagal-Arroyo's "very dangerous" invasion of the sanctity of the press even without resorting to martial law.

The afternoon program "Ngayon na Bayan" lost its block time on dzRJ just hours after Ms Arroyo declared a state of national emergency on Feb. 24, citing the threats from communist guerrillas, rogue soldiers, politicians and businessmen to unseat her.

"We were told that our show was suspended until further notice," said Danilo Arao, one of the hosts of the show that received the 2002 Golden Dove Award for best public affairs program from the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas.

Arao, head of the University of the Philippines Department of Journalism in Diliman, Quezon City, said the program producers, Kodao Productions Inc., thought the radio station wanted to use the time to cover political developments.

Arao said Kodao was later told that the show had been cancelled because of "personal political differences" with the station owner, Ramon Jacinto, the aging rock musician and former brother-in-law of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

But on Monday, the Philippine National Police presented a hooded witness, Jaime Fuentes, at the preliminary investigation of six congressmen, who claimed that Kodao was a propaganda arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Kodao host Sonia Carpio denied the

AWARD-WINNING/ A13

Gonzalez: PDI stories on aborted coup not seditious or libelous

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—JUSTICE SECRETARY Raul Gonzalez yesterday said the recent series of INQUIRER articles on the events leading up to the aborted military coup on Feb. 24 was neither seditious nor libelous.

GONZALEZ/ A13

JPE to Jamby: You cheated; but she offers prayers

By TJ Burgonio

UPPING THE ANTE IN HIS ROW WITH SEN. Jamby Madrigal, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday accused her of cheating in the 2004 senatorial elections.

Madrigal, who wept on the floor on Monday after a debate with Enrile over the reason behind the lifting of martial law, refused to comment on Enrile's claims except to say "my conscience is clear."

At a briefing, Enrile, who ironically was himself accused of cheating in a previous sen-

JPE TO JAMBY/ A10

Ping, Bro. Eddie confirm report on transition council

By Philip C. Tubeza and Christian V. Esguerra

OPPOSITION SEN. PANFILO LACSON yesterday confirmed an INQUIRER report that a group of military officers had asked him to join a transition council that would have taken over President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration, but said he turned down the offer.

Lacson told the INQUIRER that he turned it down, not because becoming a member of the council would have prevented him from running should a "snap" election be held, but because such a body could not "run the country effectively."

"It would be reduced to a debating club," he said. "Even in the most minor issue, the council members would have to first consult their groups before making a decision. And in the first place, how can [the military officers] assume that power will be given to them [later]?"

For his part, Bro. Eddie Villanueva, leader of the Jesus Is Lord (JIL) Movement, said certain military officers had invited him to sit in a planned "caretaker government" or transition council.

The invitation was aired in a series of meetings from October 2005 to January this year, he said.

PING/ A6

Fear now grips 3 Bulacan barangays

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

THE RECENT RASH OF VIOLENCE against militants has heightened the climate of fear gripping some villages in Bulacan, a province with a long history of social unrest.

On Thursday night last week, Bayan Malolos chair Crisanto Teodoro was shot dead in his car by two men on a motorcycle, the 20th militant killed in

FEAR/ A8

A PLACE IN THE SUN: President Arroyo and her official guest, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, take to the beach at the Bohol Beach Club, Tagbilaran, Bohol, after Clark addressed an interfaith meeting of delegates from 15 Asia-Pacific countries held in Cebu City. During Clark's four-day visit, the two leaders are expected to discuss trade, counter-terrorism and rural development. LYN RILLON

Tribal mayor shows democracy works

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AS RECENTLY AS THE 1970S, YOUNG Teduray in Upi, Maguindanao, would not be caught speaking the Ilonggo tongue they had learned from their Christian neighbors, or making friends with their Muslim brothers, for fear of displeasing their elders.

In those days, the Teduray tribe (which comprised 44 percent of the population), the Christian settlers (33 percent) and the Muslims (23 percent) steered clear of one another.

Such was the world of suspicion, hostility and even deadly clashes among neighbors that Upi Mayor Ramon A. Piang, a Teduray, grew up in.

He resolved to make certain changes.

So drastic were the changes that as Piang nears the end of his second term as mayor, the third-class municipality of Upi in the southwestern portion of Maguindanao in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is now a prime example of democracy at work.

Piang himself, now 54, has been recognized by the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation

TRIBAL/ A22

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas and the whole of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/03/14/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

NBI inspects Peping's house

No extension for Erap testimony – Sandigan

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS rejected a petition by ousted President Joseph Estrada for more time to prepare for his testimony in the five-year-old plunder trial against him, and told him to be ready to testify next week.

Estrada,, detained since 2001, was scheduled to take the witness stand on March 15 but asked for a postponement until March 29 because he had recent eye surgery.

Justice Diosdado Peralta said Monday the delay was too long and granted a seven-day postponement.

The court has thrown out a defense motion to dismiss the case because of weak evidence. The defense has presented 57 witnesses, and Estrada was expected to be among the last to testify.

Prosecutors say that while in office, the former president amassed about P4 billion in illegal gambling payoffs, kickbacks from taxes, and commissions which he stashed away in secret bank accounts. Plunder is a heinous crime punishable by death.

Estrada was forced out of office amid massive protests in January 2001. He has denied any wrongdoing and accused the country's elite, the Catholic Church and key military officers of conspiring to oust him. *AP*

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION YESTERDAY CONducted an inspection of the Makati house of Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. to confirm the latter's claim that there was no plot to launch a coup d' etat at a gathering there on Feb. 23.

NBI Special Task Force (STF) executive officer Arnel Dalumpines said it was possible that Cojuangco was not able to monitor all his visitors that night when the coup was supposed to have been planned, as Time magazine correspondent Nelly Sindayen reported in her now controversial article.

"We saw that Cojuangco was probably right in saying that his house was open to practically everyone," Dalumpines said, noting that a large number of people were going in and out of Cojuangco's house on Acacia Street in Dasmariñas Village during the two-hour inspection.

"Cojuangco's house was really big, so it was possible that there were indeed three groups whose members did not mingle with one another," he said.

But Dalumpines stressed that he was not not clearing anybody until the investigation was over.

Cojuangco, who was implicated with Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general Council on Philippine Affairs, has claimed that there were three groups of visitors in his house that night.

Dalumpines said the NBI was also discussing "the next step" in the case of Sindayen, the Time correspondent who reported that she was at the Cojuangco house where the coup plot was being discussed.

Out of the country

He said Sindayen, who has ignored the NBI's previous invitations, recently left the country to an undisclosed location.

Meanwhile, the name of perennial coup plotter Gregorio Honasan surfaced yesterday when the justice department presented another witness against rebel soldiers being tried for the July 2003 failed coup at Oakwood.

Army Capt. Manuel Darius Resuello, who is now detailed at the 901st Infantry Brigade in Daraga, Albay, testified yesterday that Honasan met with several of the accused more than a month before the failed mutiny and performed a ritual to swear allegiance to an organization willing to resort to violence to overthrow the government.

Defense lawyers said the testimony was irrelevant as Honasan was not among those on trial and could not be subjected to cross-examination.

The justice department charged Honasan with coup d'etat last month for his alleged role in the takeover by mutinous junior military officers of the Oakwood Premier hotel in Makati on July 27, 2003.

But hearings have yet to start as Honasan, a former senator, is still at large.

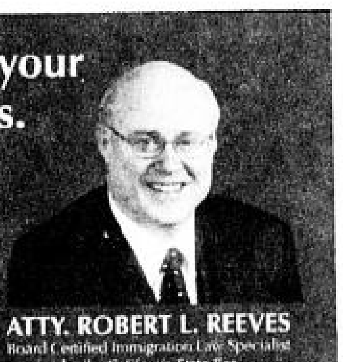
Richard Anthony Fadullon, the assistant chief state prosecutor, said that Resuello was a "corroborative witness" to an earlier testimony by Maj. Perfecto Rahil who testified having argued with Honasan at the meeting "because Honasan was saying they should use force to overthrow the government".

"What we are trying to establish, and what we hope to establish, is the fact that this was a pre-planned affair, this was planned and it had to go through stages of recruitment," said Fadullon.

Defense lawyer Theodore Te countered that the meeting had no relevance to what happened at Oakwood.

Resuello, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1994, testified that he was among some 30 men who attended a meeting with Honasan at a San Juan house on June 4, 2003.

Also at the meeting were Navy Lieutenants Antonio Trillanes IV and James Layug, Marine Capt. Gary Alejano, Army Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo and Lt. Nathaniel Rabonza, all of whom have been charged in connection with the July 2003 failed coup. *Margaux C. Ortiz and Tarra V. Quismundo*



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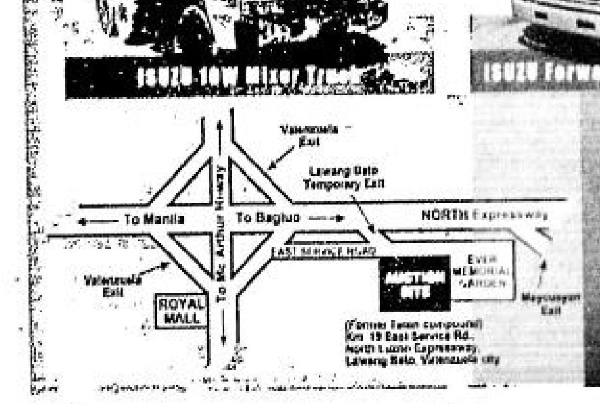

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DATE	SUBJECT	CREDIT HOURS	LECTURER
3 April	Agrarian Reform Law (*MCLE Prescribed)*	Three (3) (9.00-12.15)	Asec. Augusto P. Quijano
	Dual Citizenship: Issues & Problems (*International Law)*	Two (2) (1:00-3:00)	Comm. Linda Malenab-Hornilla
	Salient Features of the New E-Vat Law (*Substantive / Procedural Law*)	Three (3)(3:15-6:15)	Prof. Serafin U. Salvador Jr.
4 April	Trial Techniques (*Pre-Trial and Trial Skills)*	Four (4) (8:00-12:15)	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
	Legal Ethics Update (*Legal Ethics)*	Three (3) (1:15-4:30)	Justice Noel G. Tijam
5 April	Laws Protecting the Rights of Women & Children (*Substantive / Procedural Law*)	Three (3) (9.00-12.15)	Atty. Katrina Legarda
	Ownership and Possession of Property under the Land Registration Act (*Substantive/Procedural Law)*	Three (3) (1.00-4:15)	Justice Oswaldo D. Agcaoili (ret.)
6 April Thursday	Ethical Considerations in Government Bidding and Procurement (*Legal Ethics)*	Three (3) (9:00-12:15)	Prof. Bartolome C. Fernandez
	Mediation Skills for Lawyers (*ADR)*	Three (3) (1.00-4.00)	Ms. Anabelle T. Abaya
	Court-Annexed and Court-Referred Mediation (*ADR)*	Two (2) (4:15-6:15)	Prof. Rowena E V Daroy-Morales
7 April	Technology & the Law: DNA and the Courts (*MCLE Prescribed)*	Three (3) (9.00-12.15)	Judge Nimfa Cuesta-Vilches
	Oral Advocacy: Art of Direct & Cross Examination (*Oral Advocacy)*	Four (4) (1:00-5:15)	Dep.Omb.Jesus F.Guerrero(ret.)

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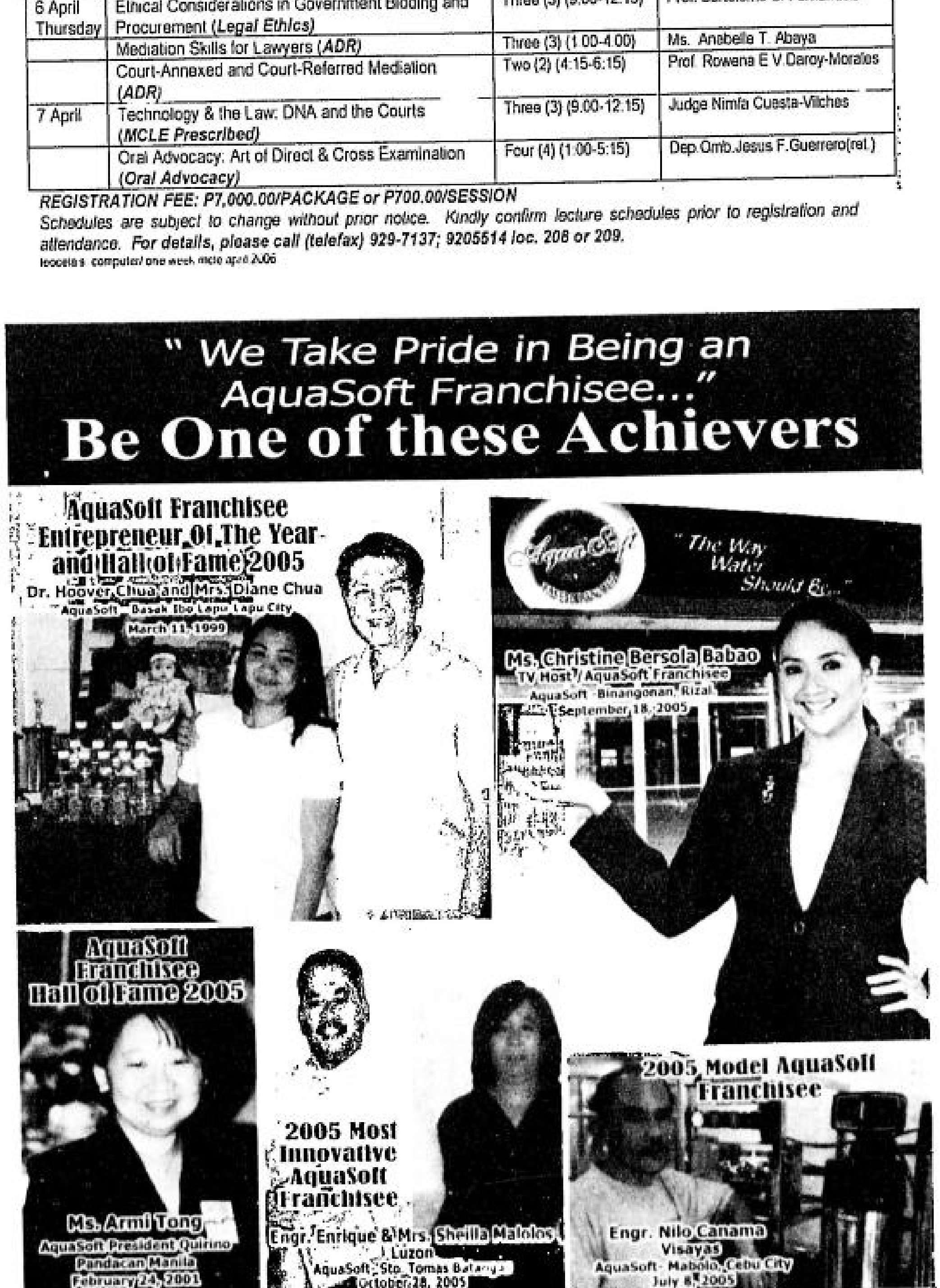

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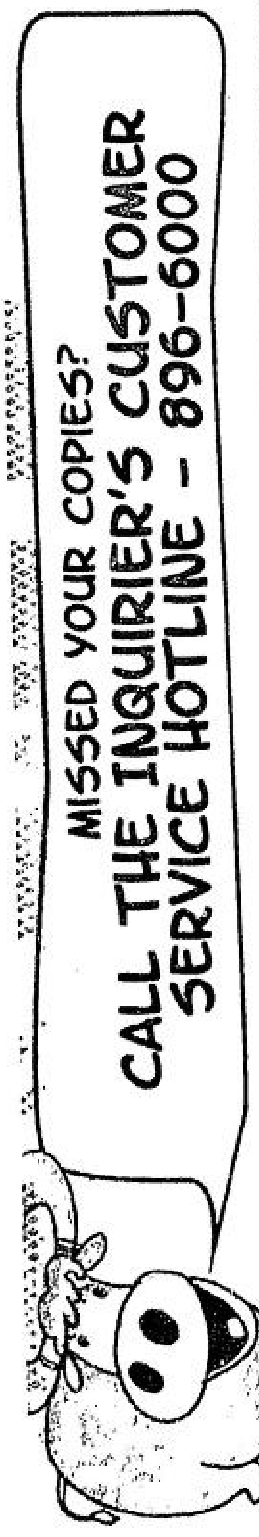

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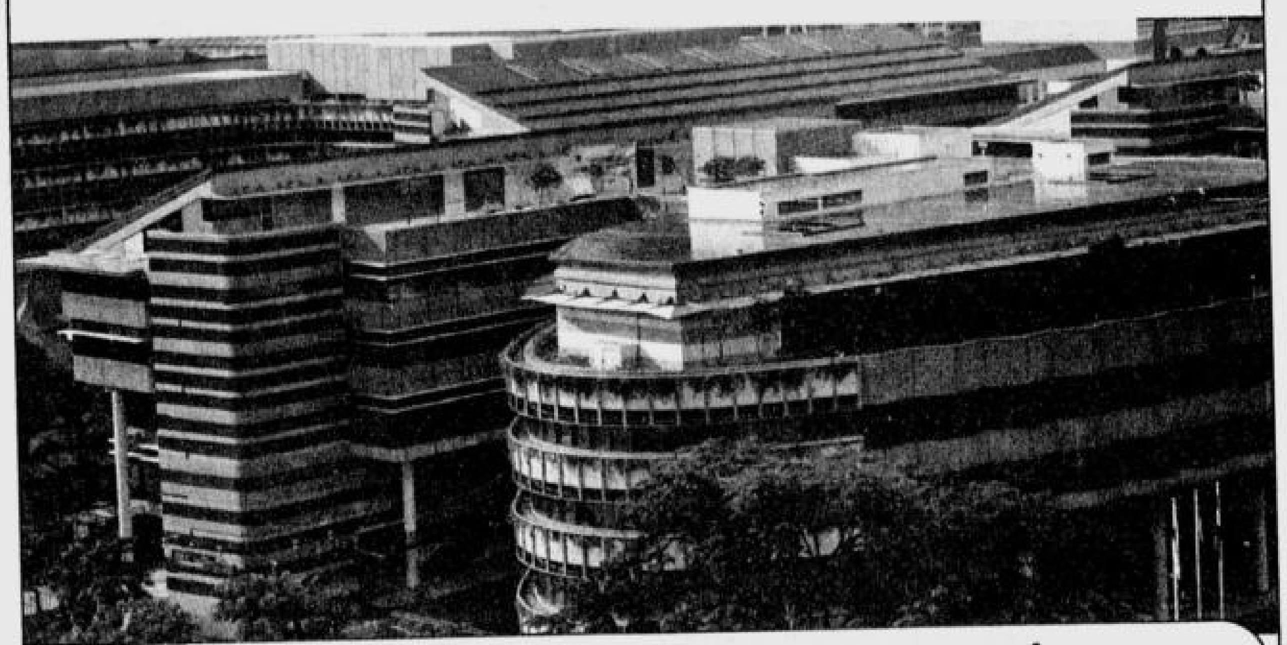

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Ex-general, kin on hold-departure list

Correction

IN THE MARCH 10 ISSUE, a front-page story—"DOJ junks P151-M tax evasion case vs Lee"—misspelled the surname of a lawyer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Run After Tax Evaders task force. The same mistake appeared in a front-page story of the March 11 issue—"DOJ, BIR blame each other for bungled smuggling." The correct name of the lawyer is Joan Agdeppa—not Agbeppa.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

FORMER ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPpines comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia (ret.) and his family have been placed on the Bureau of Immigration's hold-departure list on orders of the Sandiganbayan, which had earlier sought the family's arrest on plunder charges.

Acting BI Commissioner Arthel Caronongan on Monday issued the directive that prevents Garcia, his wife Clarita and their sons Ian Carl, Juan Paulo and Timothy Mark from leaving the country.

Caronongan said all the country's international air and sea ports had been advised of the directive.

The Garcias stand accused of conspiracy to amass ill-gotten wealth amounting to P303.2 million.

The Sandiganbayan had upheld the Ombudsman's finding of probable cause to charge the Garcias with plunder and had ordered their arrest. *Leila B. Salaverria*

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2 Magdalo boys ordered out of solitary

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A CIVILIAN JUDGE ORDERED THE MILITARY yesterday to remove two junior military officers from solitary confinement and have them rejoin other officers held in a stockade while undergoing trial on coup d'état charges for a day-long mutiny they stage nearly three years ago.

Acting on a defense motion, Judge Oscar Pimentel of the Makati Regional Trial Court's Branch 148 directed that recaptured rebel Lt. Lawrence San Juan and co-accused Lt. Audie Tocloy be held with several of their fellow defendants at the Custodial Management Unit, a detention facility within the Intelligence Service Group compound at Fort Bonifacio.

San Juan and Tocloy are among 31 junior military officers on trial in Pimentel's sala for their role in the July 27, 2003 takeover of the Oakwood Premier apartment-hotel in Makati City.

Both accused had been in solitary confinement within the ISG Compound. Tocloy was separated from his co-accused more than a month ago for unknown reasons, according to lawyer Roel Pulido.

San Juan was placed under segregated detention after he was recaptured last Feb. 21, nearly a month after he escaped with three other rebel soldiers.

"It remains to be seen whether the military will comply" with Pimentel's order, San Juan's lawyer, Theodore Te told reporters. "As soon as military gets the order, it should comply with it. Supposedly, according to the clerk of court, it should be served within the day."

Meanwhile, only 18 of the 26 accused who are in detention attended yesterday's trial hearing as eight had decided to waive their presence at the proceedings. Two of the accused are free on bail, one is hospitalized and three are at large.

Pulido said the eight who decided not to attend the hearing were "protesting the degrading treatment of the prisoners," Pulido said. "You saw them, chained on both hands, and they can't talk. Many of them I heard are starting to get tired of it. They're saying whether or not they committed a crime they do not deserve such treatment."

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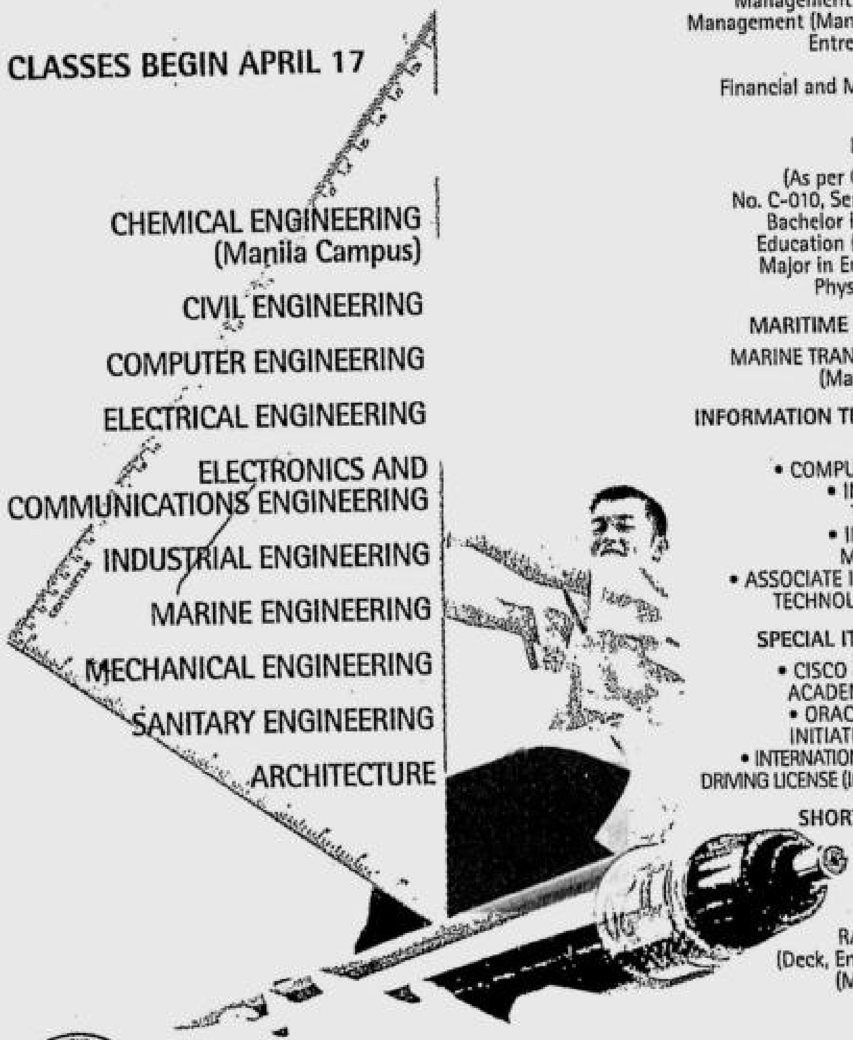

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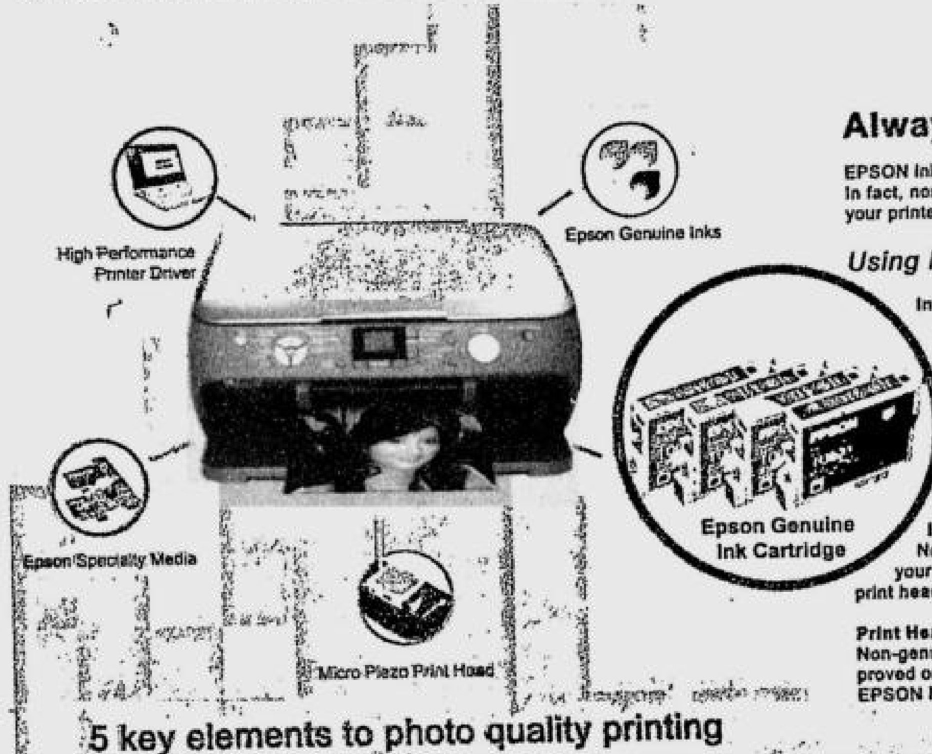

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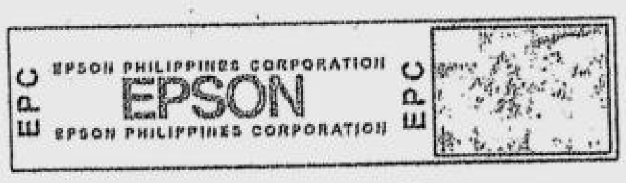

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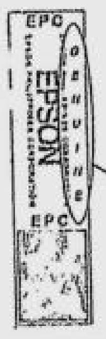

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We hold nation together, says AFP

From page A1

"The situation is ripe [for an uprising] with all this political noise," Kison said.

The military admitted there were now "cracks" in the chain of command, with no less than its elite forces—the Scout Rangers and the Marines together with the Philippine National Police Special Action Force—found to have plotted to withdraw support from the President.

Kison said the events of Feb. 24 were a "test" of the military's resolve to uphold its oath of loyalty to the duly constituted government.

Asked if the military agreed with Senator Arroyo's observation on Monday that the military could make or break the government, Kison replied: "That's true. That's the reason why they [anti-Arroyo forces] are trying to create a crack in the AFP."

Cracks in command

"There are already cracks so we are trying to address the situation, so that there will be no cracks in the AFP, so that it will not break," he went on.

"Suffice it to say the Armed Forces is strong. Once it weakens, the whole nation is in danger. The Left, the Right and the opposition will grab power for themselves," Kison warned.

"We're not saying the other institutions have weakened. But if the Armed Forces gives in, all the rest will follow," he added, recalling the military's crucial role in the ouster of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

As the then Vice President, Ms Arroyo assumed power after then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes declared the military was withdrawing support from Estrada.

The military foiled the plans of ex-Scout Rangers commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin to lead their men in joining anti-Arroyo protesters at the Edsa rallies on Feb. 24 and declare their withdrawal of support there.

Kison would not comment on reports that Lim and Querubin planned a junta or a "military caretaker government" to be led by Senga himself.

If Senga had joined ...

"The AFP has a huge responsibility, that's why it's the target. If General Senga had joined [the coup plotters], we would have a different government now," he said.

"There's no assurance there will be a significant change in our way of life if there's a change of government. Things could be worse," Kison added.

"We have our democratic process. That's what we're protecting, we're protecting the democratic process," he went on.

Senga remains loyal

Senga has dismissed speculations about his loyalty to the President as mere "intrigues meant to sow disunity and discord within the AFP to weaken the organization."

"*Ginigiba ba ako?* [Are they out to destroy me?] I don't know," he told the INQUIRER on March 10.

"*Kapag nagiba ang* Armed Forces, *nagkagulo na* [Once the Armed Forces is destroyed, there will be chaos]," he added.

Kison acknowledged the military rebels had not given up. "They would consider this as a temporary setback but again the AFP is maintaining its vigilance to stop any kind of destabilization that may threaten the nation," he said.

Let's not shoot each other

Senator Arroyo yesterday indicated that the administration could no longer control the military since the top brass had decided that it would be better to keep the Armed Forces intact rather than forcefully go after its rogue soldiers.

"Remember, they just said 'Let's not shoot at each other.' What does that mean? They'll not shoot at each other but they can talk, they can connive, they can collaborate to unseat the government so they don't shoot at each other," he said.

AFP can't go after own men

He pointed out that the Scout Rangers' Lim, one of the alleged brains of the coup attempt, was able to receive two Catholic bishops and other guests while in detention.

"They're holding court in their quarters and receiving bishops and entertaining guests," Arroyo told the INQUIRER on Monday.

"The Armed Forces cannot make an honest-to-goodness crackdown on recalcitrants because they had agreed not to shoot each other. They will move only when united," he added.

Arroyo yesterday said that the recent crisis showed the military leaders that they could take over the country "if they unite."

"What has happened in the last crisis is something like this: The political opposition has been reduced to irrelevance. Their place has been taken over by elements of the Armed Forces, more particularly the Scout Rangers, the Marines and the Special Action Force of the PNP," Arroyo said.

"They are now the opposition. So it is not GMA versus the political opposition but GMA versus some elements of the Armed Forces," he said.

Military unity

Arroyo said the danger was if "these recalcitrant elements" in the military joined forces with "the mainstream Armed Forces."

"They can go against the government. Then, we have a military junta," he said.

"So, the wonder of this all is why the administration and the political opposition can't see through it—that one morning we can wake up and there is no more government because the military has taken over," he said.

Lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) also warned yesterday about the President's creation on Jan. 17 of the Interagency Legal Action Group (IALAG) to coordinate the filing of cases against what the administration perceives to be its enemies.

Like martial law

Diokno said the IALAG—composed of representatives from the intelligence community, the police and the Department of Justice—had a precedent during the Marcos dictatorship.

"It is supposed to coordinate the prosecution of cases. Our concern is like before, it would be used to keep (administration critics) in jail," he said.

Ping, Bro. Eddie confirm report on transition council

From page A1

Villanueva, who lost in the 2004 presidential election, said he politely declined the offer of a seat in the council each time it was made.

For one, he said, he feared that the military officers in the council would be "intoxicated with power" and set up a military junta a la Burma (Myanmar).

For another, he said, it appeared to him that the plan was unclear, if not in disarray.

"I saw that it wasn't heading anywhere," Villanueva told the INQUIRER yesterday. "My feeling was that there's no unity among the various opposition groups. Many, but not all, wanted to be the leader."

'They're many' in AFP

Lacson said the military officers were one of "at least four groups" that had sought his opinion on joining a transition council.

Two weeks after the purported coup plot of Feb. 24, he said, there was still "very widespread" restiveness in the Armed Forces, with the officers who spoke with him still undetected despite the ongoing crackdown.

"They're still inside and they're many. Maybe they are the residual threats that [Ms Arroyo has been mentioning]," said Lacson, a former Philippine National Police chief and a 1971 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy.

"[If the administration] sleeps on the job, [it] might be surprised that the restiveness is still very widespread. It's not yet over," he said.

Lacson said the restive military men were mostly "mid-level and junior officers."

"Their basic complaint is election cheating. They said the AFP was used during the elections, and they were asking why the generals involved were promoted while those who refused [to take part] were punished," he said.

Lacson said these officers had "first-hand" information about election cheating because some of them were "offered money" to participate in the alleged fraud, "but they refused."

Seizing power

While the major complaint of the officers was the alleged use of the AFP in election fraud, they have varying ideas on how to resolve the crisis and "how to go about seizing power," Lacson said.

He said that while some of them wanted to institute reforms only within the AFP, others wanted a hand in reforming political institutions should they come to power.

More ominously, Lacson said, some officers have "given up on politicians" because of what happened after the 2001 uprising that put Ms Arroyo in Malacañang.

He added: "They're asking, 'Why give power to politicians after what happened in 2001?' They feel that they were had. They turned over power to politicians, but nothing happened.

"What happened to [the reforms in] the AFP? Nothing."

Uncoordinated efforts

Villanueva said he still was not sold on the idea of allowing Ms Arroyo to complete her term amid allegations that she cheated in the 2004 presidential election.

He said "a simple yet seemingly elusive solution" was to have a clean and credible "snap" election, and for the winner to be supported by all.

"Many believe that Ms Arroyo's victory is a product of a stolen election so she doesn't enjoy a genuine mandate," Villanueva said. "The solution is to bring back to the Filipino people the right to choose their own leaders."

During the three-month period that several groups met with him, all aspired to end the political crisis, Villanueva said.

He said it appeared to him that such efforts were not coordinated but were coming from various opposition groups, including "8 to 10" active and retired military officials, such as a general and a colonel.

Villanueva said these military men had "no plan to sit in the caretaker government" because they knew that they had "no competence to manage the government."

He said the plan was to seize power from the Arroyo administration and eventually transfer it to civilian authority.

60, 90, 1,000 days

Villanueva said the groups' proposals for the holding of a "snap" election ranged from 60 to 90 to 1,000 days after Ms Arroyo's ouster.

There was also a commitment that whoever would sit in the council would be barred from running "in the next immediate election," he said.

Still, Villanueva declined: "I didn't want to be dragged into something that might unwittingly lead to bloodshed. I didn't want to sin before God."

He said the invitations he had received were ostensibly part of an effort to consolidate the groups and sectors seeking Ms Arroyo's ouster.

He was also an attractive choice for an ally, given that he commands the support of the three-million-strong JIL movement, the Bangon Pilipinas party and the Philippines for Jesus Coalition Movement, a network of around 4,000 born-again churches.

Villanueva said he had told the groups of his reservation that a "snap" election might not be forthcoming once they had wrested power.

He said he told them: "What guarantee do we have that there would be genuine change, that we would return to constitutional democracy? Who are these people who will sit in the caretaker government? Are they incorruptible and of proven integrity?"

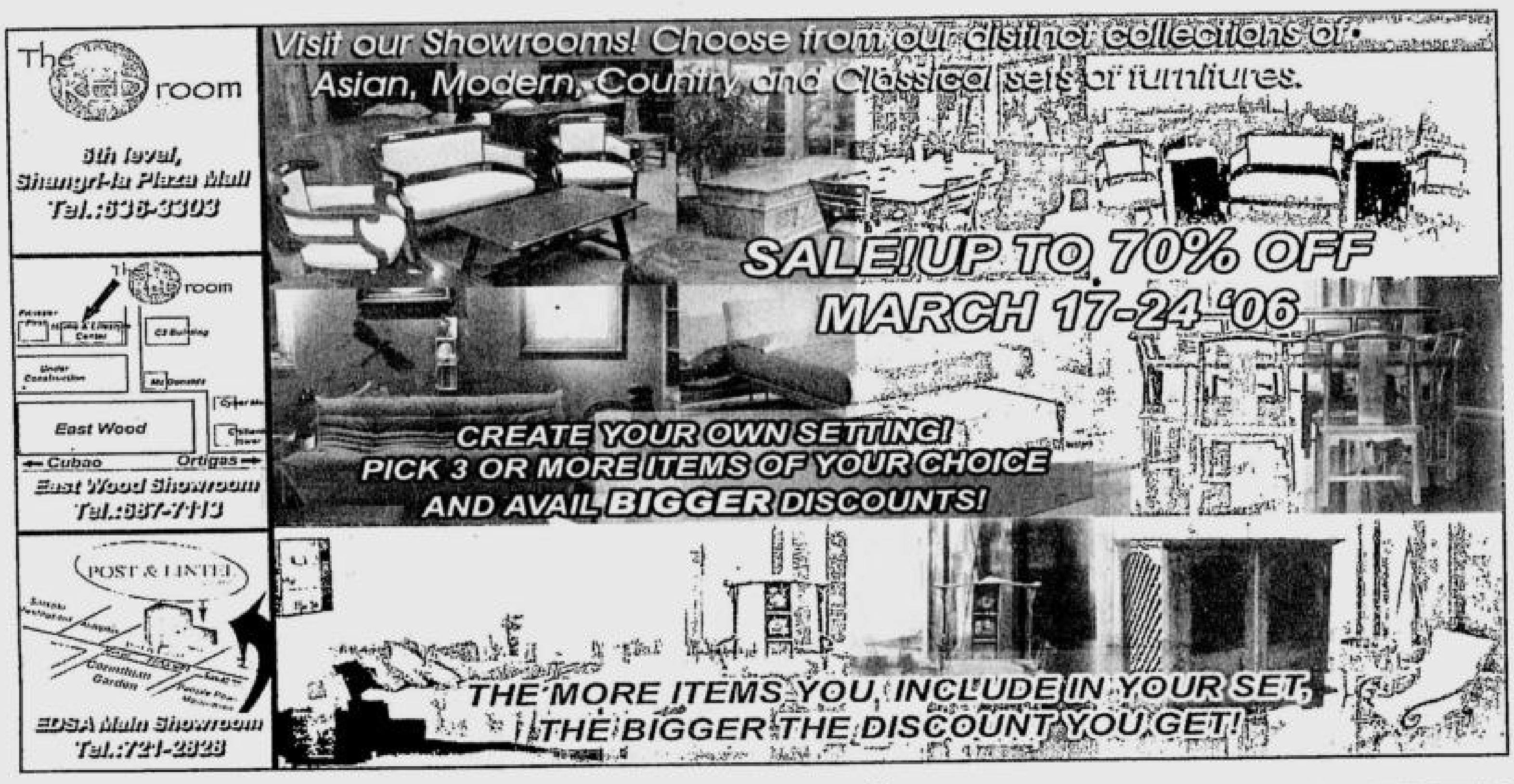
Whole story

Malacañang is confident that once the "whole story" of the purported coup plot of Feb. 24 is revealed, the public will appreciate why Ms Arroyo declared a state of national emergency.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo was standing by Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 which, the opposition and legal experts had said, lacked factual basis for the grant of emergency powers to make warrantless arrests and crack down on a critical newspaper.

"We respect what people have to say about the declaration of the state of emergency, but we are certain that as the whole story unfolds about the broad conspiracy to tear down the democratic government, they will understand that the President acted just in time and in commensurate measure in the interest of national security and stability," Bunye said.

He urged the people to "trust our system of laws and the institutions that continue to serve them with complete sincerity and concern for their welfare." *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*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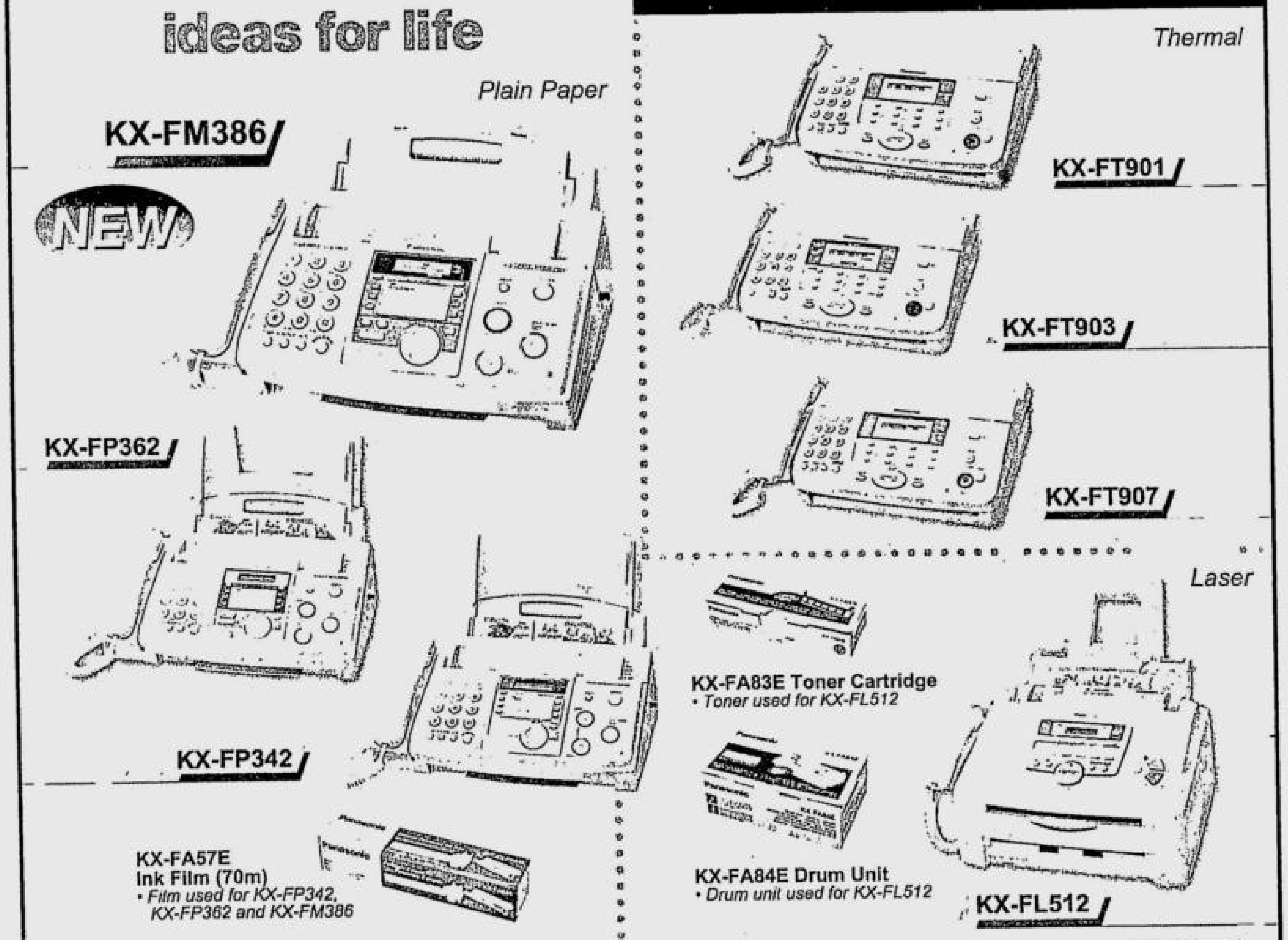

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AIRLINES IN TROUBLE

Flight of pilots 'serious' – Gokongwei

By Nikko Dizon

CEBU PACIFIC'S TOP executive has admitted that the exodus of Filipino commercial airline pilots is a "serious problem" in the local aviation industry that needs to be addressed.

"It's a serious problem and [it's] industry-wide," Lance Gokongwei, Cebu Pacific president and chief executive officer, told reporters in an interview during the airline's 10th anniversary celebration.

"It's our job as management to [address] this issue in a long-term manner," he added.

According to news reports, Filipino pilots are being recruited by foreign carriers that offer them much higher salaries.

Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Roseller Barinaga, chair of the House committee on labor, has recently sought a moratorium on the deployment of highly skilled workers, including pilots, sailors, and those in the information technology industry.

"Fortunately our turnover has been very low," Cebu Pacific general manager Bong Mojica said in the same interview.

Mojica said that over the past year, only three pilots resigned from Cebu Pacific's pool of more than 125 pilots.

Gokongwei said the "key" to addressing the problem was for airline management to work on its "retention efforts," which include offering pilots a competitive compensation package, as well as ensuring a good pilot pipeline.

"One is to work on retention efforts with compensation as one component and sodality with the company and its values as another," Gokongwei said.

"The second part is ensuring that the pipeline is good," he added.

Gokongwei said Cebu Pacific was "focused on both efforts."

He said the company was studying the viability of setting up an aviation training program for pilots.

Airport tightens security vs thieves

By Nikko Dizon

PILFERAGE OF PASsengers' baggage, the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) beefed up the security at the ramp areas of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) terminals starting last Monday.

"We want to prove to our valued travelers that their baggage remain safe with us here at the Naia," Miaa general manager, Alfonso Cusi, said in a statement released yesterday.

The statement said the Miaa security teams and the Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group (PNP-ASG), which is tasked to secure the airside area of the Naia complex, "shall conduct increased patrolling, search and inspections especially at the baggage build-up and make-up areas."

Cusi said that the increased security would also prevent attempts by terrorists and other "unscrupulous individuals" from sabotaging passengers' luggage in the hold-baggage area.

"Baggage pilferage is quite rampant," retired general Angel Atutubo, Miaa assistant general manager for security and emergency services, admitted in an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

"We're doing our best to solve this," he added.

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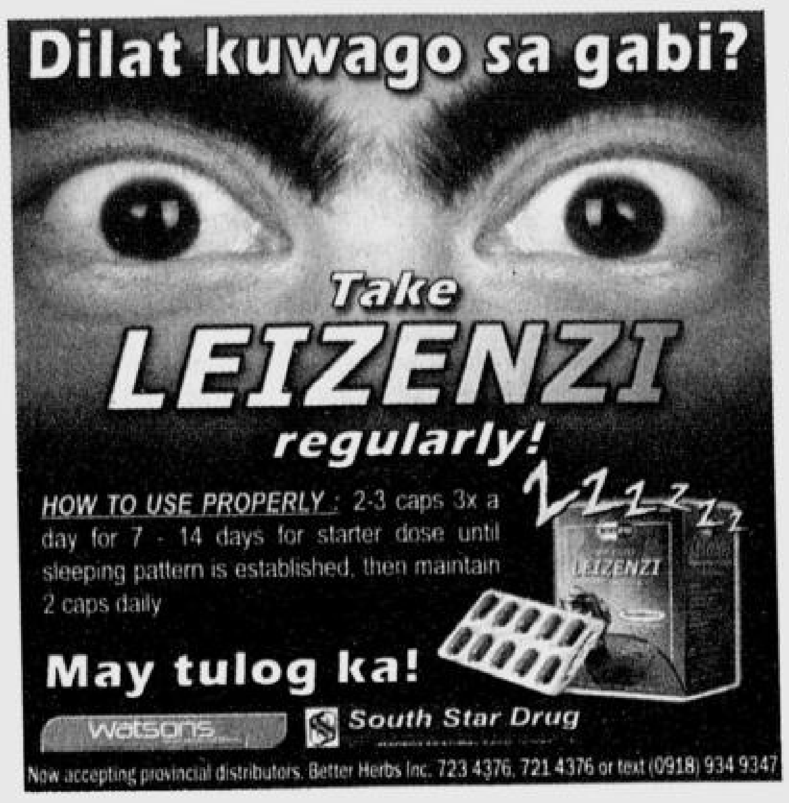
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SolGen quits; aide claims pressured by Malacañang

From page A1

"Malacañang asked him to resign. Malacañang said it was not satisfied with the Solgen's defense of Proclamation No. 1017," said the official, who asked not to be named lest he court the ire of the "powers-that-be."

The source said Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Eduardo Nachura would assume Benipayo's post.

"Nachura is currently having a closed-door meeting in the Solgen's Office," said the source when contacted by the INQUIRER.

Benipayo, the first senior government official to quit after the wave of "Hyatt 10" resignations in July last year, submitted his resignation letter after telling Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on Monday that he wanted to go back to private practice.

Benipayo did not answer calls or text messages from justice reporters.

Contacted by phone in Cebu, where he was attending a Cabinet meeting, Gonzalez said that Benipayo told him on Monday night about his plan to resign.

"He told me he was contemplating to resign because he wants to go back to private practice," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said Benipayo had admitted being "burned out" by the numerous cases he was handling for the administration.

"I told him that if he's burned out, then he should go on vacation. He said he would think about it," Gonzalez said.

The justice secretary denied reports that the resignation came after he had berated Benipayo for mishandling the government's defense in cases before the Supreme Court questioning Presidential Proclamation 1017, which placed the country under a state of national emergency.

Ms Arroyo lifted the proclamation after a week following a storm of criticisms.

The court has yet to rule on its constitutionality.

"I hereby tender my irrevocable resignation as solicitor general ... effective April 1, 2006 or as soon as my successor is appointed, whichever comes first," Benipayo said in his resignation letter, a copy of which he sent to justice reporters early yesterday evening.

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve our country as head of the office recognized as the tribune of the people," he said in his March 14 letter to the President.

During oral arguments in court last week, Benipayo admitted that law enforcers could have misinterpreted PP 1017, resulting in some cases of abuse.

But he said this should not be blamed on the Palace.

Gonzalez downplayed suggestions that Benipayo's resignation—which coincided with a government crackdown on supposed coup plotters—had anything to do with politics.

"He was not in the political arena," Gonzalez said, expressing surprise over Benipayo's decision to resign.

Benipayo is also handling the government's defense in cases questioning the constitutionality of the "Calibrated Pre-emptive Response" policy on demonstrations, and Executive Order No. 464, which bars government officials from testifying in congressional inquiries without Ms Arroyo's clearance.

Gonzalez said Benipayo told him of his plans to quit during Monday's cluster meeting on the Piatco issue.

The news of Benipayo's resignation quickly spread through the House of Representatives.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said the emergency proclamation was "indefensible" and any Solgen would fail to justify it. *With a report from Christine O. Avendano*

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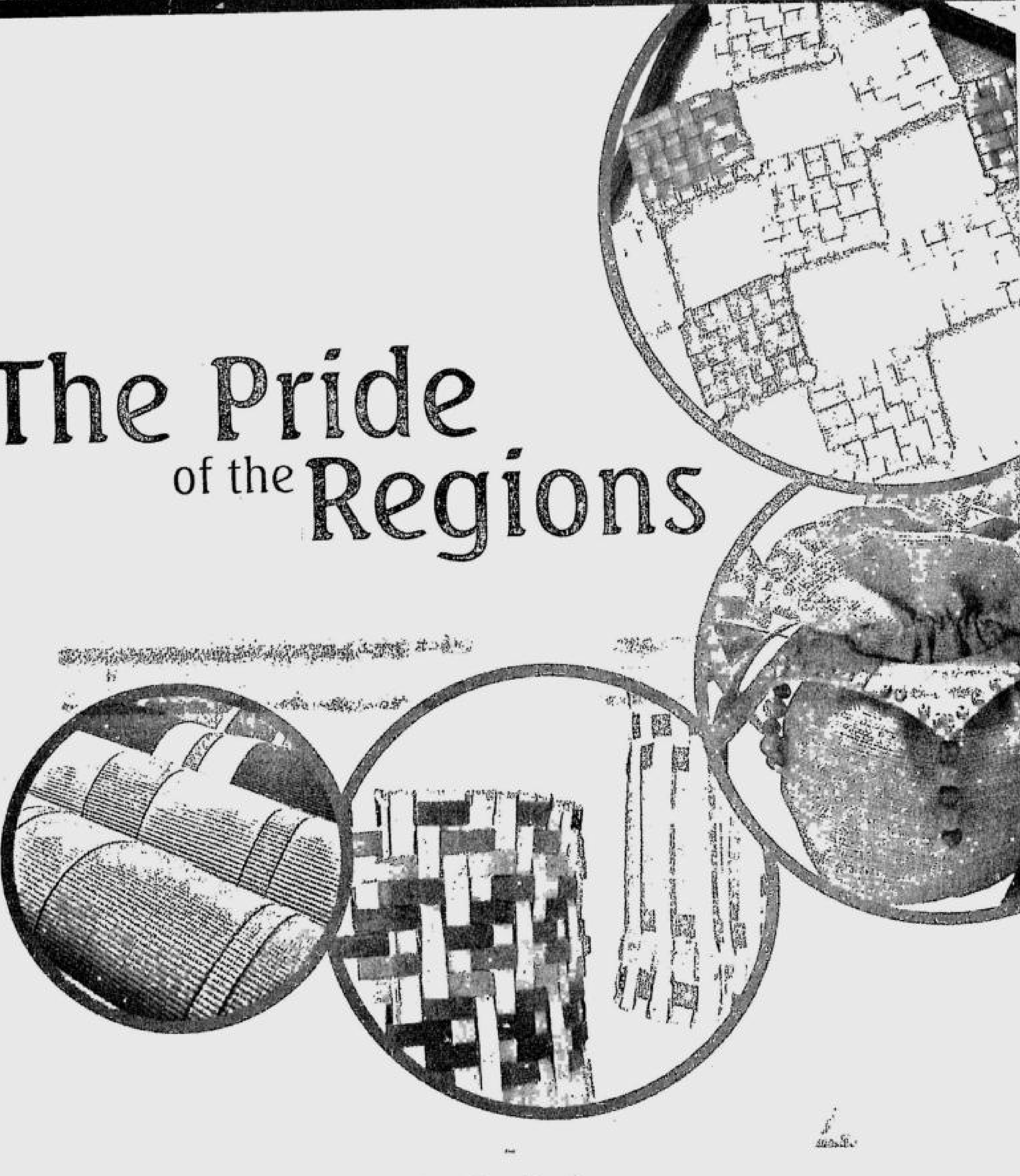

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Fear now grips 3 Bulacan barangays

From page A1

Bulacan since 2005. He was buried yesterday.

Four days earlier, in San Ildefonso town, labor leader Rogelio Concepcion was abducted by unknown men. He has not been heard from since.

Another family in San Ildefonso, the Valmocinas, also knows what fear is like.

On the night of Feb. 1, in scenes that could have been lifted from a violent movie, 15 men in fatigue uniforms and combat boots, carrying Armalite rifles and wearing bonnets over their faces, burst into the high-walled Valmocina compound and farm, and shot dead farm manager Ricardo Valmocina and two poultry helpers.

Not content, the gunmen also kidnapped Ricardo's sons Renante and Ruel. No one has seen the brothers since.

Were the raiders New People's Army rebels in military uniform? Robbers? Soldiers out on a mission and pretending to be rebels?

Police have not identified the assassins while a military investigation team formed to find out if soldiers were involved has yet to announce its findings.

A relative of the victims has appealed to Malacañang and to Sen. Richard Gordon for justice.

A male resident said the people in the area knew the real story but were afraid to talk. He said an incident involving the shooting of an Army detachment three days earlier "could be the possible link" to the killings.

"After spraying the detachment with bullets, the attackers simply disappeared. The soldiers could not find them," the resident said.

"Maybe they were thinking that, because of the high walls around the farm, their attackers had hidden inside."

Suspected NPAs?

Mama Conching said someone had told her after the Jan. 29 incident that the military was suspecting her family of "coddling NPA rebels."

"We have been long time residents here, I was born here, there have been no accusations like that against us. Only now," she said.

A farm worker recalled that Ricardo had also been approached by soldiers who accused him of being an NPA supporter.

Communist Party spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said in an interview that people in the area had complained to local officials and even to the priest "but nothing happened."

Soldiers heard nothing?

A member of Gordon's staff said that what he found startling about the Feb. 1 killings was that soldiers at a nearby military detachment supposedly did not even go out to see what the bursts of gunfire were all about. The detachment is roughly two to three city street blocks away from the farm.

The slain Ricardo, 36, was a nephew of Conching Valmocina, owner and matriarch of the 2.5-hectare farm that includes several poultries and piggeries. The two helpers killed in the poultry area leased from the Valmocinas were identified as Jojo Villares and Jaymon Cervantes.

When this reporter went to the farm 10 days after the massacre, two pairs of slippers lay on the ground which still bore dried blood and traces of where bullets had struck. There was no protective yellow tape around to indicate it had been the scene of a gruesome crime.

No more cackling chickens

No chickens cackled, deepening the silence around the abandoned poultry house.

"The day after the killings, the woman renting the place took away all the chickens out of fear. That's why there are no chickens here anymore, not one chicken," said a farm worker who was too afraid to give his name.

Conching Valmocina said: "You can ask anyone here in San Ildefonso, nothing like this has has happened to any family even during the days of martial law."

Mama Conching, as she is called, said she saw how Ricardo was shot by the men wearing bonnets.

Burying the memory

After shooting her nephew, she said the gunmen ransacked her room, opening all the drawers and shouting, "Where are your guns? Bring out all your guns."

The old lady said she cried hysterically but stopped when one of the men pointed his M-16 rifle at her face and told her: "If you don't stop bawling, you'll be next."

Mama Conching said the man fired another shot at her nephew's body sprawled in the living room after one of his companions said: "He's still moving."

The bullets that hit Ricardo tore into the floor but Mama Conching had the holes covered with cement.

"It makes me shiver to see the holes where the bullets that killed Ricardo went through," she said.

Cash, jewelry taken

Seven thousand pesos in cash and jewelry worth P100,000 were also taken by the armed men, she said.

Ricardo's wife also saw how her husband was abducted.

"I couldn't speak, I felt myself grow pale, I couldn't move," Amelita Valmocina said.

A woman farm worker said she and her husband stuffed the ears of their children so they would not hear the gunshots and the screaming from the main house. She was too scared to open her eyes and remained lying flat on the floor with her kids and husband long after the assassins had left.

Before leaving, the men shot up the Valmocinas' service car and the steel gate. The car was still parked on the same spot where it apparently was on the night of the killings.

Possible motive

The Valmocinas wondered what had happened to the brothers Ruel and Renante. Have they been killed, too? Or are they held somewhere, being interrogated, tortured?

Ruel has two kids. His wife, Eldie, was away in Manila working at a bank when her husband was abducted.

"I hope they will bring my husband back alive," she said.

Palparan blamed

Ka Roger blamed Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the 7th Infantry Division, for the Feb. 1 attack.

Palparan said Rosal's allegation and claims by militant groups that he was a "butcher" no longer surprised him.

Rebels are hurting

"They're saying that because we have been successful in weakening the support the CPP-NPA (is getting) from various groups and civilians in Bulacan. They're really hurting. Strong military presence is one way of weakening them in places like this."

Palparan said San Ildefonso was one of three towns in Bulacan strongly influenced by the NPA. The others on Palparan's list are Norzagaray and San Miguel.

More killings

Reports of violence and killings had piled up, the victims being, left-wing supporters, human rights groups said.

Two weeks after the raid on the Valmocina farm, two other brothers, Reynaldo and Raymond Manalo, were abducted from their house in another San Ildefonso barangay. Their fate remains unknown.

Their murder was followed by the killing of barangay tanod Danilo Fajardo by gunmen supposedly belonging to the group that hit the Valmocina farm.

Sleepless nights

A day after Fajardo was killed, businessman Santiago Francisco was gunned down in the San Ildefonso poblacion by another group of armed men.

No wonder, *Mama* Conching is having sleepless nights.

"If it is only possible, I would be sleeping every night under a [bed]. I am so afraid the gunmen will come back," she said. *With a report from Carmela Reyes*

Batasan 6: Gov't witness should wear 'bayong'

From page A1

This was how leftist politicians and militant groups described yesterday the appearance before state prosecutors of confessed communist cadre Jaime Beltran Fuentes in the pre-trial investigation of six lawmakers facing charges of conspiring to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo.

One of the accused congressmen, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño, said the new drama was directed by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez under "Malacañang Productions."

Casiño suggested the production should be titled "Uubusin Ko Kayong Lahat" (I Will Wipe You All Out).

Fuentes wore a hood over a pair of dark glasses and a bullet-proof vest when he appeared at the Department of Justice the other day to sign an affidavit. He claimed the six lawmakers were involved in a Right-Left plot to force Ms Arroyo out of office which could culminate in an armed attack on Malacañang.

"It's all theatrics," Casiño said.

But Casiño said that, instead of wearing a hat, Fuentes' "wardrobe consultant" should have advised the dramatic star it would have been more appropriate for him to wear a *bayong*, a native bag with holes for eyes worn as hoods by informers for the Japanese Army during World War II.

"Ito ang Makabagong Makapili (He is the Modern Makapili)," Rita Baua of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said of Fuentes.

Casiño recalled that the practice of employing anonymous sources and "professional witnesses" was prevalent during martial law but that he was not surprised the Department of Justice would resort to similar "antics."

Besides Casiño, the other lawmakers being linked to the plot were Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran, Rafael Mariano, Joel Virador and Liza Maza. All have denied the charges.

Grumbling stomach

Casiño gave reporters copies of what he said was a sworn statement of another police witness, Ruel Escala, who claimed to have witnessed a meeting between the six congressmen and Army rebel 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan on Feb. 20 in a farm in Batangas.

A beautician from Moriones in Tondo, Manila, Escala said in the affidavit that he inadvertently witnessed the clandestine meeting while defecating at the secluded farm in Barangay Bukal in Padre Garcia town.

Escala said he was waiting for a ride when he felt his stomach grumbling so he went to look for a bush.

It was while defecating that he saw a white Adventure AUV coming. From the vehicle emerged the six lawmakers, he said. About 10 unidentified men carrying documents approached Ocampo et al., he went on.

"I easily recognized them (the congressmen) because they are famous and I usually see them on TV and newspapers," said Escala.

New employment

Escala said he identified San Juan from a poster of the Magdalo army group of mutineers.

He said he then reported to the authorities.

Mariano laughed at what he said was the government's use of manufactured witnesses to help keep Ms Arroyo in power.

"With the 11.4 percent unemployment rate under the Arroyo administration, the police have millions of choices from which to present as witness. Is their witness now included in the so-called 10 million jobs Ms Arroyo vowed to create and to the growing number of torture victims under this fascist regime?" Mariano asked.

Mariano described Fuentes's affidavit as a product of the police's "malicious and dirty imagination."

Blaming the Left

Militant leader Vic Ladlad, whom the police claimed was among those who met with the party-list lawmakers to plot the rebellion, denounced the allegations as fantasies.

Ladlad also said Fuentes's claim of having been his security aide was "a complete lie by a manufactured witness."

Ladlad admitted he met Fuentes in 1986 after the Aquino administration ordered the release of most political detainees.

"But I never heard from him or anything about him. He has been suddenly resurrected by the government to play a part in the inquisition mainly directed against the progressive parties, organizations and personalities," Ladlad said in a statement.

"The accusations ... are part and parcel of a badly scripted plot to persecute progressives and other people who are critical of the Arroyo government," Ladlad said.

He said he had been working with the Samahan ng mga Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Para sa Amnestiya, and with Karapatan, a human rights alliance.

Ladlad was tapped as a consultant in the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front in 1994.

Leaders of other groups, including Gabriela, Kilusang Mayo Uno and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas also scoffed at Fuentes' claims.

"Having run out of any credible evidence to support its charges of rebellion, the administration is now resorting to hooded witnesses who are ready to implicate anyone and everyone in the alleged plot to topple the regime," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

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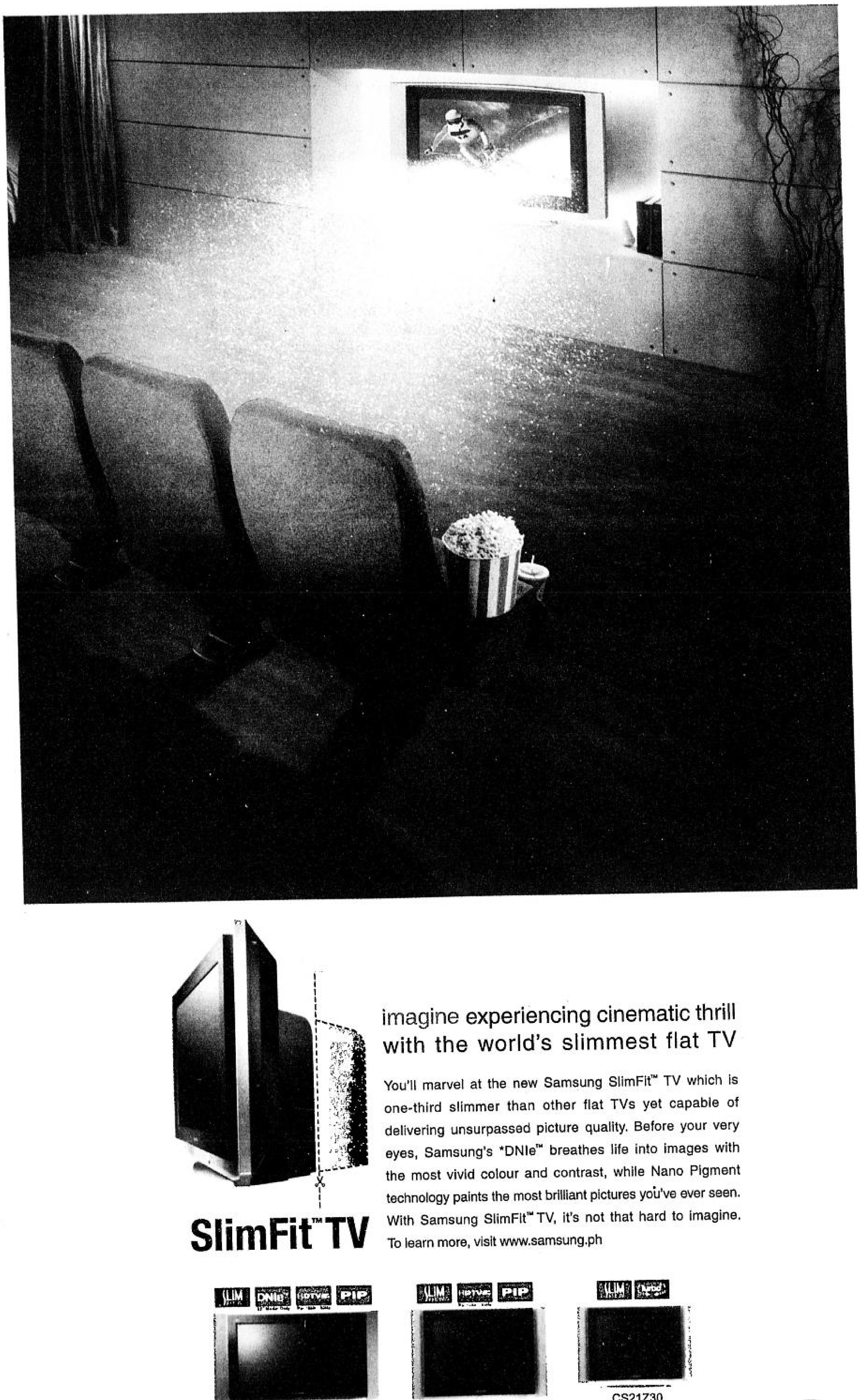

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What went before

AQUILINO PIMENTEL HAD sought the ouster from the Senate of Juan Ponce Enrile and three others whom he claimed had won the 1995 senatorial elections through "colossal cheating."

In his protest before the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET) filed on June 20, 1995, Pimentel coined the term "dagdag-bawas" (vote-padding and shaving) to describe the scheme which, he claimed, had defrauded him and had led to his failure to land in the top 12 in the senatorial elections.

That year, Enrile finished 11th while Pimentel finished 15th in the final tally. Both of them ran under the Lakas-Laban coalition.

Pimentel cited fraudulent tallies from at least 21 provinces and three cities in Metro Manila—Pasig, Taguig and Caloocan.

To help fund his protest, Pimentel had put up the Foundation for Clean Elections, whose supporters included former President Corazon Aquino and Jose Concepcion, former chair of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections.

In November 1997, the SET affirmed its finding of "massive electoral illegalities" through *dagdag-bawas* in the 1995 senatorial race as alleged by Pimentel. Initial partial tallies of the tribunal showed Enrile dropping out of the winning circle to the 15th slot. Pimentel, however, was still a non-winner, placing 14th.

However, on July 22, 1999, the SET dismissed Pimentel's 1995 petition, saying that his victory in the 1998 senatorial elections nullified his protest.

Kate Pedroso, PDI Research

JPE to Jamby: You cheated; she offers prayers for enlightenment

From page A1

atorial election through *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and shaving), said he had evidence to prove that Madrigal resorted to cheating in the 2004 elections to ensure her victory.

Both he and Madrigal ran under the banner of the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP). Madrigal placed fourth and Enrile ninth in the Magic 12.

Both were members of the minority bloc until Enrile forged a "working coalition" with the majority.

Supporting affidavits

"I have a letter to her by someone and affidavits to back up the letter. I will not disclose the contents of the affidavits except at the proper time and in a proper forum," he said.

Enrile also recalled that during a pep rally in Gumaca, Quezon, in the runup to the elections, he and another KNP senatorial candidate, Salvador Escudero, overheard Madrigal "bargaining with somebody" on her mobile phone.

"In fact, to quote her words, 'Name the price as long as I am within the first five.' This is my personal knowledge. Let her deny it. I think Sonny Escudero will confirm this story," Enrile said.

Asked if the affidavits corroborated Madrigal's statement at the rally, he said: "I think it was much more telling than that."

Enrile said he would wait for Madrigal's move before he would decide what to do with the affidavits. "Let her do the act. I will dance according to the tune that she wants," he said.

Issues personalized

Madrigal, however, refused to be drawn into a "personal debate" with Enrile, saying he "makes issues too personal," particularly those concerning martial law and the logging concession of his firm, San Jose Timber Corp.

"As a member of the Senate, I have never raised personal issues to my advantage. I feel he is just shadow boxing. I continue to respect him because of his advanced age. My conscience is clear and I hope that history will be kind to him," she said.

"I pray for his enlightenment," she added in a statement.

At the briefing, Enrile ruled out any reconciliation with Madrigal, with whom he had clashed on some issues such as the confirmation last year of then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor and the operation of his logging firm in Samar.

"I think it's too late in the day. I have tolerated her for too long," he said.

The animosity between the two senators flared up anew on Monday when Madrigal manifested on the floor that she wanted Enrile's criticism of her earlier privilege speech stricken off the record, but Enrile objected to this.

Stroke

Madrigal openly wept and walked out of the session hall after Enrile said that her parents, Antonio and Amanda Madrigal, had partied with the Marcoses in Malacañang during martial law.

She became emotional because her father had suffered a stroke two weeks ago, according to her staff.

Madrigal had declared in her privilege speech that then President Ferdinand Marcos lifted martial law in January 1981 to make way for the visit of Pope John Paul II. Enrile called her "reckless" and a "purveyor of falsehood."

Cooling-off period

To keep the row from escalating, Senate President Franklin Drilon said he and other senators would take steps to "bring the two together once more."

"I am certain that all of us will pool our talents insofar as trying to bring the two together again. This thing happened in the course of the debate," he said. "I will personally exert every effort to bring the two together once more."

Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., for his part, said that putting Madrigal's motion to a vote on the floor, as earlier suggested by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, would help put the row to rest.

"It can provide a cooling-off period among the disputants. Eventually, that will have to be decided and I hope that it will be done in accordance with the rules that unparliamentary language can be stricken off," he said.

It was Pimentel who had accused Enrile of engaging in *dagdag-bawas*.

Pimentel had claimed that *dagdag-bawas* caused him to lose but enabled Enrile to win in the 1995 senatorial elections.

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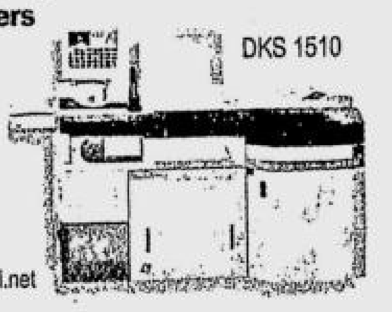

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PROGRAM

8:00 - 9:15	**Registration**
9:15 - 9:30	**Opening Program** Invocation National Anthem Welcome Address: *Assistant Ombudsman Cyril E. Ramos, OMB* Message: *Ms. Nileema K. Noble, Resident Representative, UNDP* Introduction of Participants
9:30 - 9:45	**Perspective Setting:** *Ms Mary Ann Fernandez-Mendoza* Executive Director, CESB
9:45 - 10:10	**Messages:** *Commissioner Guillermo N. Carague* Commission on Audit *Chair Karina Constantino-David* Civil Service Commission *Chair Constancia de Guzman* Presidential Anti-Graft Commission
10:10 - 10:20	**NACPA Presentation** *Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni, OMB*
10:20 - 10:30	**Challenge: Call to Unified Action Against Corruption** *Tanodbayan Ma. Merceditas N. Gutierrez* Office of the Ombudsman
10:30 - 10:45	**B R E A K**
10:45 - 11:30	**Response and Declaration of Commitments**

Executive:	*Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita*
Judiciary:	*Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban*
Legislative:	*Senate President Franklin M. Drilon* *Senator Edgardo J. Angara* *House Speaker Jose C. de Venecia*
Constitutional Bodies:	*Commissioner Guillermo N. Carague* Commission on Audit *Chair Karina Constantino-David* Civil Service Commission
LGU:	*Governor Erico Aumentado* Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines
Civil Society:	*Mr. Vincent Lazatin* Transparency and Accountability Network
Business:	*Mr. Ramon del Rosario* Coalition Against Corruption

11:30 - 12:00	**Signing of the Covenant of Commitments**
12:00 - 1:00	**L U N C H**
1:00 - 4:00	**Workshop: Identification of Issues and Priorities**
4:00 - 4:45	**Plenary** **Synthesis and Next Steps**
4:45 - 5:00	**Closing**

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Constitutional Bodies: Civil Service Commission, Commission on Audit, Commission on Elections, Commission on Human Rights; ***Executive Branch:*** Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Finance, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Justice, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of National Defense, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Transportation and Communications, Department of Trade & Industry, Department of Tourism, Presidential Management Staff, National Economic and Development Authority, Office of the Executive Secretary, Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, National Food Authority, National Irrigation Administration, Government Procurement Policy Board, Procurement Service, Bureau of Customs, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Corrections, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Immigration, Land Registration Authority, National Bureau of Investigation, National Labor Relations Commission, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Land Transportation Office, Light Rail Transit Authority, Manila International Airport Authority, National Transmission Corporation, National Statistical Coordination Board, Philippine Information Agency, Government Service Insurance System, Career Executive Service Board, ***Judiciary:*** Supreme Court of the Philippines, Sandiganbayan, Court of Appeals, Court of Tax Appeals; ***Legislature:*** Senate of the Philippines, House of Representatives; ***Local Leagues:*** Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines , League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, Liga ng mga Barangay ***Civil Society Organizations:*** Transparency and Accountability Network, Transparency International Philippine Chapter, Procurement Watch Inc., Institute for Political and Electoral Reform, Fellowship of Christians in Government, Evelio B. Javier Foundation, Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government, Bishops Businessmen's Conference, Government Watch, Concerned Women of the Philippines, Concerned Women of the Philippines, Caucus of Development NGO Networks, Social Weather Stations, Kilosbayan-Bantay Katarungan, Konsensyang Pilipino, National Institute of Policy Studies, Center for Local Governance Research & Development, Transparency and Public Accountability Today and Tomorrow (TAPATT), National College of Public Administration & Governance, La Salle Institute of Governance, Ateneo School of Government, Ateneo Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs, Institute of Politics and Governance, Institute of Popular Democracy, Caucus of Development NGO Networks, Philippine Center for Policy Studies; ***Media Organizations:*** Center for Media, Freedom and Responsibility, National Press Club, Philippine Press Institute, Center for Community Journalism and Development, National Office of Mass Media; ***Private/Business Sector:*** Coalition Against Corruption, Makati Business Club, Business for Integrity and Sustainability of Our Nation

Towards an Integrated and Concerted Approach to Anti-Corruption

The Office of the Ombudsman, in partnership with the Development Academy of the Philippines with funding support from the United Nations Development Programme, is holding the ***Anti-Corruption Convergence Summit*** on March 17, 2006 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila in Ortigas Center.

The Philippines has a long history of fighting corruption, with anti-corruption laws and policies, organizations and institutions, programs and projects, in place. Corruption, however, still remains a serious and highly visible problem. The Summit responds to the need for more credible, sustainable, and concerted multi-sector action.

The Summit will bring together for the first time the three branches of government: executive, legislative and judiciary; the constitutional bodies; civil society; the business sector; and the donor community, to achieve purposive coordination and convergence for collective strength. It will aim for a more integrated approach towards battling corruption through the National Anti-Corruption Program of Action. (NACPA).

The highlights of the event would include the call for unified action by Tanodbayan Ma. Merceditas N. Gutierrez; the declaration of commitments from the different sectors: Supreme Court, Senate, House of Representatives, Executive, Constitutional Bodies, LGUs Civil Society Organizations, and Business Sector; and the signing of the Covenant of Commitments.

All participating sectors are enjoined to attend. For particulars, call Emelita Esusan or Emily Nem Singh of DAP at 6312139 or 6312132.

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NBI wants damning tape vs Gen. Lim

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION has formally asked the ABC-5 television network for a copy of a videotape allegedly showing Army Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim expressing his withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo during an interview.

In a letter addressed to Regalado Galura, ABC-5 chief operating officer and executive vice president, NBI officer-in-charge Nestor Mantaring said that Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor had learned about Lim's interview with the station on Feb. 23, the night the foiled coup was supposed to have been staged.

Mantaring said the videotape could be very vital evidence in the investigation being conducted by the bureau.

Arnel Dalumpines, the NBI's Special Task Force executive officer, said his office has to confirm if the tape really existed as ABC-5 has reportedly denied it had such a tape.

Lim, who appeared at the NBI last week to testify in the inquiry into the Time magazine article that implicated him in the foiled coup plot, denied that he had conspired with communist rebels to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Armed Forces Chief Gen. Generoso Senga put Lim under his custody after uncovering a plan by the dismissed Scout Ranger commander to lead his troops to an opposition rally that would call for the President's resignation.

Margaux C. Ortiz

13 more Customs officials sacked

By Leila B. Salaverria

AT LEAST 13 MORE Customs employees have been relieved from their posts since the arrest of suspected smuggler Samuel Lee prompted a review of all shipments declared as packaging material.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said yesterday that he ordered the relief of the 13 employees last Monday after unreleased imported goods they had appraised as packaging material turned out to be plastic resin.

"It was clear that there was a misdeclaration," he said in a telephone interview.

Morales has ordered Customs personnel to be on the lookout for shipments declared as packaging material following Lee's March 5 arrest. Lee, who has been described by police as a known plastic resin smuggler, had allegedly ordered the diversion of three container vans holding plastic resin to a Valenzuela corporation when they were supposed to be taken to a Customs bonded warehouse.

The three containers had been declared as holding packaging material, he said. The police earlier asked Customs to seize more than 100 container vans suspected to have been brought in by Lee.

Morales identified the 13 relieved personnel as Nestor Perez, collector of the FTI Customs Office; Maritess Martin, chief of the Warehousing Assessment Division; Ricardo Morales, deputy collector of the FTI-Customs Office; principal appraisers Moises Bayaua, Edgardo Gamboa, Oscar Verame and Crescencia Viri; and examiners Rey Cabanilla, Lorenzo Fabria, Tito Lerio, Cipriano Ocampo, Jocelyn Reyes and Manolito Reyes.

They have been transferred to the Administrative Division of the Port of Manila pending investigation and were given 72 hours to explain why they should not be sanctioned.

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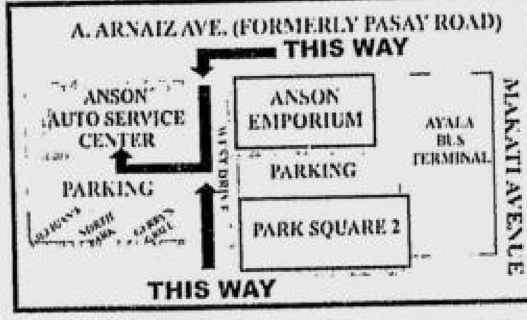

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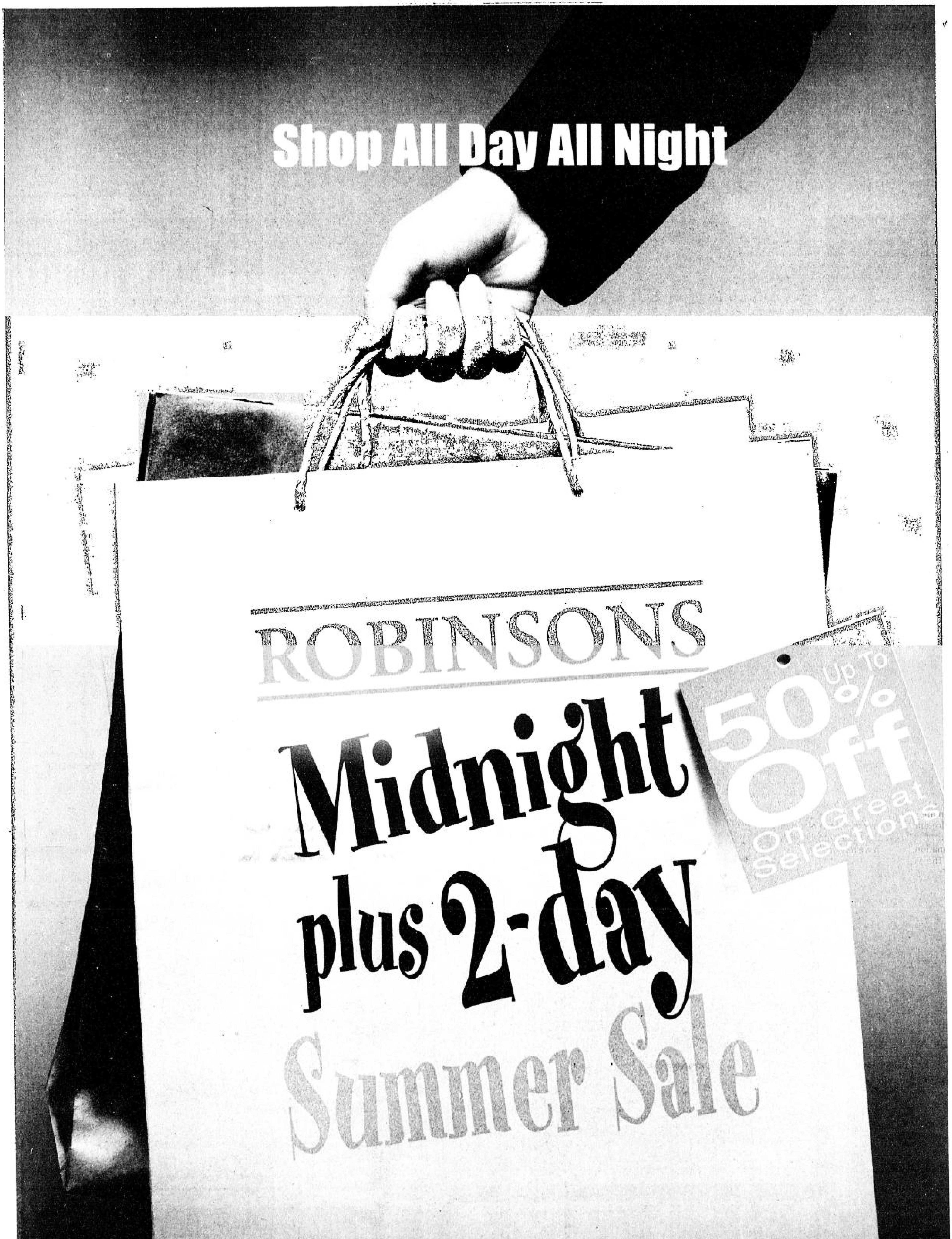
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Award-winning radio show axed; PCIJ harassed

From page A1

charge. "We are a legitimate and an award-winning outfit," said Carpio. "We are the only radio show of dzRJ that has given the station an award."

"We believe that RJ was influenced by the powers-that-be," said another program host, Ronnie Pagpag.

As of press time, Jacinto had yet to return the INQUIRER's calls for his side of the story.

Ngayon na Bayan used to air from Monday to Friday from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. The show started in 2001, although Kodao did not have a block time contract with dzRJ. "It's more of a word of honor thing between our two groups," Arao said.

Gov't does anything it wants

In a news conference yesterday, Senator Arroyo expressed alarm at the moves taken by the administration against media.

"Without even any proclamation needed in suspending the writ of habeas corpus or (imposing) martial law, the President, or government, is now invading the sanctity of the press and that's very dangerous," said Arroyo.

"What is in the mind of the government? They do anything they can, just do things with abandon, violate the Constitution and when asked to explain, they will not appear before the Senate," he said.

"There is no forum anymore where they can be made accountable. This is the idea being foisted by the executive. We can do our worst, but you can't make us accountable and that is very fearsome," said Arroyo. He was referring to the President's ban on officials attending congressional hearings without her approval.

Arroyo talked to reporters following a Senate hearing on the administration's media crackdown during the weeklong emergency.

Police attempt to search PCIJ

Sheila Coronel, executive director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, told the hearing that Quezon City policemen attempted twice but failed to obtain warrants to search the PCIJ offices reportedly in connection with sedition charges against five staff members.

She said PCIJ sources in the police informed the center that the charges stemmed from its posting on the PCIJ website of the "Hello Garci" wiretaps purporting to show that Ms Arroyo stole the 2004 presidential election.

"If a search warrant is issued on the PCIJ, it will send a signal that it is open season for legitimate journalists. If we cannot rely on the police and the courts to defend our rights to report freely and to provide citizens timely information, who can we rely on?

"The PCIJ does not know when and if a search warrant will be issued. What we do know is that there is no basis for such a warrant," she said.

Harassment

Coronel said that police seeking the search warrants were accompanied by audio engineer Jonathan Tiongco.

Last year, Tiongco filed a case of inciting to sedition against the PCIJ in the Department of Justice, saying its posting of the "Hello Garci" recordings, purportedly between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, encouraged the opposition to call for the President's resignation and impeachment, Coronel said.

Coronel said Tiongco had been linked to Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, who presented the sound engineer to reporters last Aug. 12 in a bid to question the authenticity of the wiretaps.

"Contacted by telephone yesterday, Defensor denied any knowledge of the search warrant against us. He said that lawsuits were being planned against several media personalities, but the list did not include the PCIJ," Coronel said.

The Daily Tribune publisher Ninez Cacho-Olivarez also testified about how the police raided her newspaper at the height of the national emergency.

Tribune remains bugged

Although the police had left, her office telephone lines remained bugged, she said.

"What happened to the Tribune is terrible. You can imagine the raiding of the police and for almost 10 days [they] occupied the premises of Tribune. Their intention was to padlock it although that did not push through," Arroyo said.

He said the Senate committee on justice and human rights would come out with a report although Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao and National Telecommunications Commission officials again snubbed yesterday's hearing.

Coronel said that PCIJ members felt harassed and that the cases were "taking its toll" on them psychologically and physically.

Besides the sedition charges, Tiongco had also brought two libel cases against PCIJ for its publication of a police dossier that listed a string of criminal cases filed against him, said Coronel.

Tiongco's wife Rona also accused the PCIJ of violating her right to privacy. On her request, Quezon City Judge Ralph Lee issued a temporary restraining order against the PCIJ blog on Nov. 4 last year.

PCIJ staff worried

"We feel that this is harassment by a private individual who happens also to have connections with the police and who is very close to very powerful people," Coronel said.

"I think it is safe to say that everyone is worried. We are not letting Tiongco intimidate us ... We are continuing with our work as usual but this is added stress for us that we don't really want to have to deal with," she said.

"Mr. Tiongco has been charged with, among other things, frustrated murder and carnapping (sic). How would you feel if a man like that has filed several cases against you? Certainly, we look behind our backs. We hide when we go to court because we don't want to be seen by him," Coronel said.

Coronel said it was "obvious that Tiongco has made it his career to harass and intimidate the PCIJ with a string of lawsuits."

"But why do the police and the courts now appear to be supporting the outrageous allegations of a man with an unsavory reputation and questionable credibility?" she added.

CORONEL: Added stress

Gonzalez...

From page A1

GONZALES

Gonzalez, who was here for the Cabinet meeting with President Macapagal Arroyo at the Malacañang of the South, said he had read the articles published on March 11 and 12 and found them to be "to some extent, factual."

"That is not seditious. I don't think that's even libelous. It is basically factual," Gonzalez said. "I know the whole story. So more or less I know what is factual."

Gonzalez said his department's monitoring of broadcast and newspaper reports was continuing but he stressed that "we are not censoring."

"We are considering filing charges against anybody who has committed inciting to sedition or a crime against public order," he added.

But Gonzalez said the INQUIRER was not among those being considered.

Armed Forces spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison earlier warned that the INQUIRER could be charged with libel or sedition for publishing "baseless articles" allegedly peddled by "unseen hands and puppet masters" to divide the military.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said it would be up to the military to file a case against the newspaper. He said the military might have reasons for considering legal action against the INQUIRER.

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Command responsibility

EDITORIAL

WHEN THE CHIEF OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY, LT. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, said that the military should keep out of politics, he was correct. He was also right when he said politics is harmful to the military profession, and that politicking has no place in a professional armed forces. But then he conveniently overlooks the probability that in a truly non-political, professional armed forces, with a commander in chief who is properly respectful of the principles of merit and professionalism, he probably wouldn't qualify for the position he now holds.

A military truly built on integrity and upholding the idea that commanders must have unblemished reputations would not have as the Army chief someone accused of partisan activity in a national election. Whether the charges are unfounded or not, the charges themselves would, in the kind of military Esperon says he upholds, result in his being thoroughly investigated, not rewarded with a promotion, until all doubts concerning his integrity have been dispelled.

Indeed, all the wooing by political opportunists would be pointless if the military itself was satisfied that its leadership was unsullied by partisan political activity. All the agitation in the world would be useless if the members of the AFP were convinced that civilian authority itself was determined to insulate the military from the "political noise."

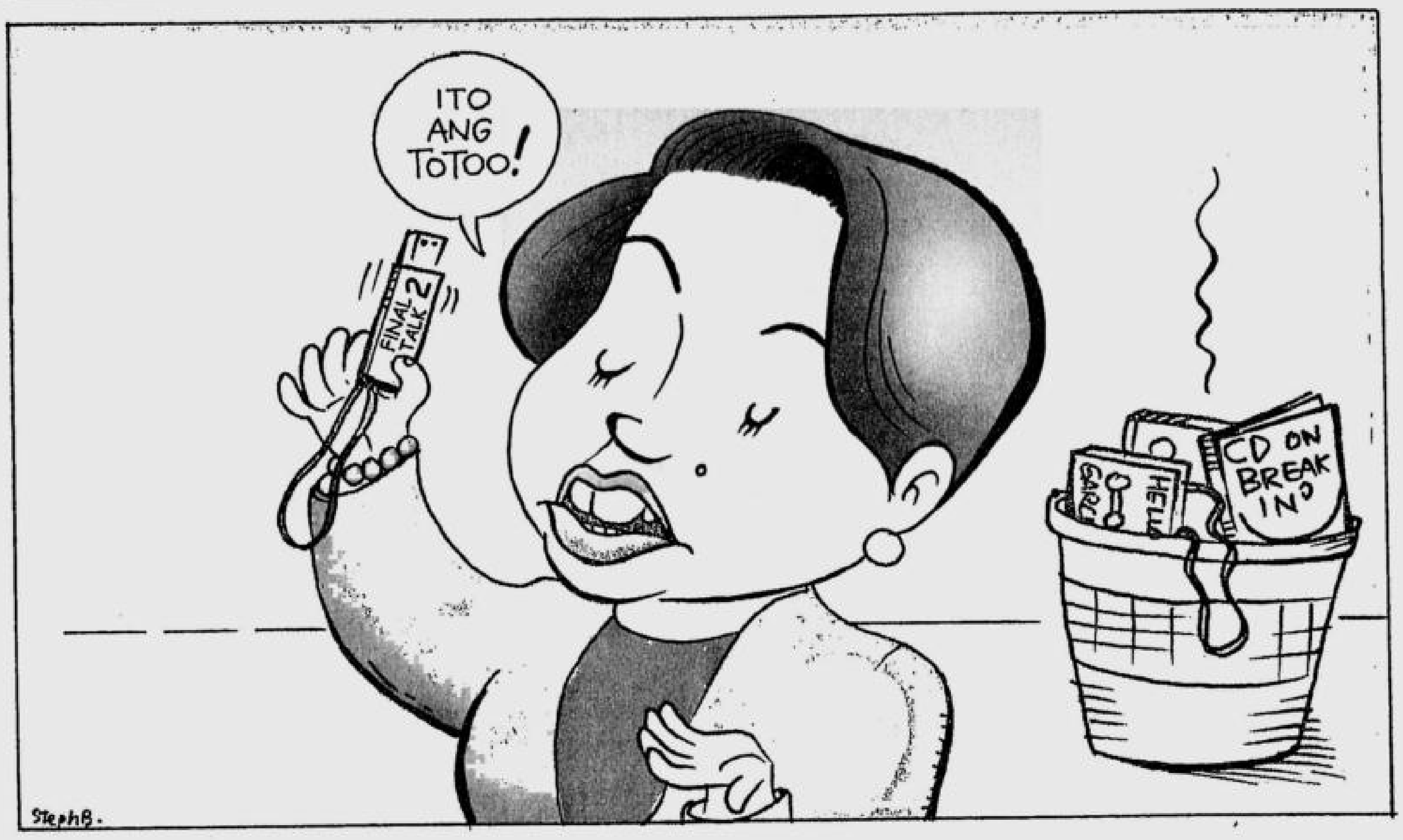
However, when the civilian leadership undertakes a revolving-door policy with regard to appointments to the highest military positions to gratify egos of senior military officers and increase their pensions and then continues to butter them up by making room for them in the civilian bureaucracy upon their retirement; when accusations are not seriously investigated, but instead result in promotions and other forms of coddling; and when the ignored accusations include allegations that not only certain officers, but through them, the soldiers they command, engaged in various forms of "vote protection" for the incumbent—then adventurism is not only to be expected, it becomes inevitable.

When a Marine officer bellowed that "All we want are clean elections!" he spoke not just as a disgruntled, hotheaded soldier, he spoke as an outraged citizen. Insubordination, it is true, is one of those acts for which any military service has zero tolerance. It is, however, one of the most human of instincts in the face of authority which demands total obedience but which fails to instill a healthy respect from those who should obey.

If persuading the members of the military to engage in adventurism can be likened to seduction, then it has to be asked who, in cases of successful seduction, bears the heaviest burden of guilt or, more properly, moral condemnation. Take two spouses: if a third party seduces one, is the other spouse automatically blameless? A review of the facts is required to answer the question. The marriage vow, presumably, is a strong one, which by instinct both parties in the marriage adhere to, not least because they consciously took the marriage oath. The successful seducer often resorts to lies to make one partner in the marriage stray—but more often than not, the lies are based on a kernel of truth: say, neglect, indifference or other defects demonstrated by the other spouse.

Our soldiers take a vow to defend the Republic and uphold the Constitution. They live according to a strict code that emphasizes not only obedience and discipline, but honor. Each rank looks to the higher rank not only for instructions, but for an example to follow. When that example is not there, and when honor becomes absent, then discipline and obedience begin to crumble.

The top brass and the civilian authority can condemn military adventurism—as indeed, they should—and punish the same, as it is their duty. Military discipline the world over throughout history has been enforced, particularly in the face of mutiny and disaffection, with the harshest methods. However the best armies also study why such things occur, and try to fix the problems. They cannot be fixed merely with speeches, statements or an escalation of punishments. They can only be fixed by enforcing command responsibility, which also means that commanders must be beyond reproach.



Why gov't attempts to control media will fail

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IF THE OFFICIALS AND ADVISERS OF PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo (she has the biggest number of presidential advisers ever of any president) are as smart as they pretend to be, they would have learned from the mistakes of Ferdinand Marcos in dealing with the media. But they have not, and they keep making mistakes.

Media receive so much attention from tyrants because they tell the people the truth, like holding up a mirror to show all the ugly warts and pimples of the dictator. On the night Marcos declared martial law, his storm troopers swooped down on newspaper offices and closed all but one of them. This was what the Arroyo administration tried to imitate, but it had the guts to raid only one paper, the smallest one at that. The intent was to sow fear among the media so that they would be less critical of the administration, but the effect was exactly the opposite. Remembering the dark days of the martial law regime, media fought back with a fury that surprised the government. Nobody was scared at all; it only made mediamen very angry.

Former Sen. Francisco Tatad, Marcos' press secretary when martial law was declared, told the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday the errors of trying to control media. He was joined by Tita Reverente and Aldo Filomeno, two officials of the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography which is protesting pornography in movies and the tabloids.

Of course, we all know that Marcos had almost full control of the media. But only in the beginning. It all began to unravel in the later years as journalists recovered their courage and found out that they could outwit the censors.

Scare tactics and the fact that there was no previous lesson to learn from made the Marcos ploy successful, Tatad said.

But I think the reason was not so much "repression" of the press but "seduction" by Marcos. Cronies and relatives of Marcos were made to own and operate their own media organizations—Roberto Benedicto of the Daily Express, brother-in-law Kokoy Romualdez of the Journal Group and senior aide Brig. Gen. Hans Menzi of the Manila Bulletin. The government took over ABS-CBN and Benedicto owned Channels 9 and 13. The news was controlled not so much through the news desk but through the Press Office in Malacañang. Daily Express reporter Primitivo Mijares, who had direct access to Marcos, wrote the Palace stories and distributed copies to the other reporters. Thus, the three dailies had almost identical stories.

In the beginning, the government had military censors sit in the newsrooms to look over the stories. But that was only for a few days. We gave them all the stories, even the inconsequential ones, and the censors got cross-eyed trying to read them all. Not even the editors can possibly read in full the immense volume of stories that pass through a newsroom in a single day. So the day came when the censors left us alone.

Besides, the top editors, although they were working for the establishment press because there were no independent newspapers, were veteran professionals and the blood of genuine journalists flowed in their veins. So there was the constant cat-and-mouse game between the editors and reporters, on the one hand, and the owners and Malacañang, on the other.

I will cite my case as one example. I wrote a column for the Express. I was critical of Marcos, softly at first but harder later. Marcos complained to my bosses, and they gave me gentle hints. I would tone down the next few columns and then become critical again. Finally, they assigned somebody to censor my columns. Sometimes, the column would be so thoroughly censored that less than half of the original would be left.

But I was the managing editor who put the paper to bed (I worked until the press was running toward dawn) and the censor would leave ahead of me. After he left, I would put back all the parts that were censored and when the paper came out the next morning, the critical column would be intact.

I expected to be fired for these indiscretions but it is to the credit of the professionalism and respect for journalism of my superiors that they did not give me my walking papers. They would just scratch their heads and say nothing. (The Catholic Mass Media Awards gave me a trophy after martial law for this column-writing.)

The top editors of the three dailies knew that we should give the opposition a voice in our newspapers. That was why we launched in 1985 the Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) to give opposition views an outlet. Their public statements then became legitimate news and we had a good excuse to print them in our newspapers.

Then came the underground press, or "mosquito press" that printed the other side of the news. They became popular because they were prohibited and the pro-Marcos establishment press had lost credibility. The mosquito press was Xeroxed, laboriously copied by hand or typewriter, and circulated from hand to hand. The INQUIRER and We Forum became the most sought-after newspapers.

Thus, the media learned that they could beat attempts at government control. And that is why any attempt by the Arroyo administration to control the press will inevitably fail. It is even easier now for another mosquito press to flourish, what with modern technology like the Internet, websites, fax and Xerox machines, and cell phones. Besides, no government can ever control the international media. For a free press is like water: you cannot dam it and prevent it from flowing. There will always be leaks where water can squeeze through.

Newspeak

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I THOUGHT NOTHING WOULD BEAT GMA's public apology to the nation last year passing off talking to Garci as a "lapse in judgment." It was classic Orwellian Newspeak.

But comes now Metro Manila police chief Vidal Querol with an even better one. Last week, the nation watched on TV as Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel was seized by Querol's minions in a rally at the Quezon City Rotunda and shoved into a van. Risa, normally the perfect picture of equanimity, later exploded with a four-letter word, or a six-letter one, to describe her ordeal. But Querol has a different interpretation of what happened. "Who says (Risa) was arrested? She was taken out of danger. She could have gotten hurt." What about the fact that Risa was grabbed by her arms and led away despite her protestations? "It was police assistance."

Inspired no end by this adventurous foray into linguistic frontiers, I have endeavored to find equally dazzling ways to describe various phenomena in our midst:

GMA did not really lie when she said she would not run for president on the grave of Jose Rizal in 2002 but announced she would do so less than a year later. She merely subscribed to what my former teacher Rolando Tinio used to say, which was that people who do not change their minds have no minds to change. Alternatively, she merely lived up to the charms expected of her gender, chief of them to be as fickle as the weather.

GMA did not steal when she used Pagcor and PCSO funds, money meant for fertilizers and Marcos' Swiss loot to pay for the martial law torture victims, to campaign. As an economist, she merely weighed the opportunity cost of money and determined that it was best used to seize opportunity to opportunistically allow an opportunist to keep power.

GMA did not cheat when she called up Garci to demand that she win by one million votes. She was just practicing saying "Hello Garci" in her distinctive un-duplicable DNA-imprinted voice in anticipation of it becoming the most popular ring tone in this country. What she meant by "Will I still win by one million?" was whether her "Hello Garci" would still beat the ring tone of her nearest competitor, Rivermaya, by one million users. She also tried the same tack with Manny Pacquiao after Pacquiao won his bout with Eric Morales, her "Hello Manny" being a near-exact duplicate of "Hello Garci" except for the name. Alas, "Hello Manny" never quite flew off.

Jose Pidal is not really greedy and does not dip his hands in the nation's money jar with sticky fingers as often as he can or as his increasingly pudgy hands will fit into it. He is really conscientious and is keeping the people's money in his custody, the better to protect it from the crooks and thieves that teem in his wife's closet, or Cabinet. Mike Defensor is not really so young and so corrupt. He is just not so young.

We do not have teeming poor huddling in cardboard hovels beside *esteros* and railroad tracks, hustling their daily bread. We have migrants from the provinces in search of greener pastures in the big city—such as leaving verdant fields for the asphalt jungle may be called that—and occupying rent-free dwellings near scenic water sources and mass transportation venues. With much enterprise and creativity, they are teaching the world how to maximize the use of space and scarce resources. The unlucky among them do not get sideswiped by trains or drown in the creeks after bouts with gin and despair but are relieved of their earthly cares by the hand of Providence and get to supplement the income of their loved ones by having their corpses rented out to entrepreneurs who run private gambling joints under cover of wakes.

We do not have doctors turning into nurses to be able to find work abroad as caregivers. Work abroad is not wrecking families through separation and loneliness. What we have are medical practitioners who have discovered the completely Filipino virtue of humility and the completely altruistic activist virtue of serving the people. Of course, the people they are serving are other people, but what the heck, we're all part of humanity. Of course, they are depriving this country of experts to treat the sick, but what the heck, too, being physically sick is the least of this country's worries because its people can always take the time-tested, all-purpose drug called Ginebra San Miguel to get well. Work abroad isn't splitting families, it's allowing Filipinos to discover the Western, indeed global, value of choice. Who says only Muslim men can have a maximum of five wives? Who says only American women can have a minimum of five partners?

We are not getting poorer by the day. Some people, like the *kariton* pusher last week whose pushcart was confiscated a third time, are not trying to kill themselves by jumping off an overpass. We are merely learning the economic virtue of austerity and belt-tightening. Some of us are not eating to look fashionably emaciated. The more scientifically minded among us are trying to prove Newton's law of gravity to their satisfaction by jumping off great heights. As to the possibility of being run over on the street by passing vehicles if you survive the fall, are you kidding me? In Edsa's traffic?

We are not burying our heads in the sand. We are enjoying the blinding comfort of the dampness of the earth. We are not losing our hopes and dreams, we are learning that without a head you can't know misery and without a heart you can't feel pain.

The truth is not that we are being lied to every day. The truth is, well, you can't handle the truth.

* * *

There are additions to our lineup on Thursday night: Chin Chin Gutierrez, Tropical Depression, Village Idiots, Crazy as Pinoy, Datu's Tribe, Lost in the Veins. My thanks to them. Rock on.

Allende heir at the helm in Chile

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

WHEN CHILE LAST SUNDAY INAUGURATED ITS first woman president, Michelle Bachelet, it turned on its head several traditions. Her election last January with 53.5 percent of the votes marked a political watershed in Chilean history.

Bachelet, 54, is not only a woman who defeated two men in a male-dominated and conservative country, but is also a Socialist, an agnostic, a pediatrician, a guitar-strumming former activist, and a single parent with three children. She is quite candid about her status, saying she has "no partner," and is not embarrassed at all about it or about being an agnostic, none of which was an election issue in a country with a huge Roman Catholic majority.

But it is her being a Socialist that has important political significance in Latin America, where there has been an increasing political trend toward the Left in recent years. Her election came 30 years after the Left took power in Chile for the first time in 1970, when Salvador Allende was elected president, and not through the conventional route taken by communist parties, which is armed revolution.

After her election, Bachelet told a euphoric crowd in Santiago: "My commitment will be to travel with you on yet another stretch of this great promenade of freedom we have been opening." She was taking off from Allende's last speech from the besieged La Moneda Palace on Sept. 11, 1973, when he declared that some day, much sooner than later, "we will reopen the great promenades down which free men pass."

Allende died fighting in the palace during the coup d'etat staged by Gen. Augusto Pinochet 33 years ago, establishing a military dictatorship that lasted for 17 years, from 1973 to 1990. Bachelet spoke on a stage located at almost the same place where Allende delivered his historic speech.

Bachelet, who is believed to have galvanized the women's vote, succeeds President Ricardo Lagos, also a Socialist. She is the fourth consecutive leader from the center-left coalition Concertacion, which has ruled Chile since it returned to democracy in 1990 following the downfall of the Pinochet dictatorship.

Lagos hailed Bachelet's election. "This is a big party for Chilean democracy," he told a cheering crowd outside La Moneda. "This is what makes our country serious and trustworthy in the world."

Bachelet is only the second elected woman leader in South America and is expected to continue Lagos' successful mix of liberal social policies and free-market economic policies. Three consecutive terms of Socialist leadership have proved that Socialists can deliver sustained economic growth while providing social security services.

Bachelet said her government will be "a government of citizens." On her platform of "citizen's democracy," the Economist magazine wrote that Concertacion, since the end of the Pinochet, regime kept the dictatorship's free market policy, which, eventually, "brought rapid economic growth, but matched them with more effective social policy."

Chile's stability and policy consensus "is a kind that is rare in Latin America, so radical change is not in store," the magazine said. Bachelet has promised to govern "in a more open way, with more say for citizens' groups."

She said, "I would say I am a Socialist, of course, but I wear many hats. I was not a minister of Socialists, I was minister of all the Chileans. I will be president for all Chileans."

Trained as a doctor in Germany, Bachelet served as minister of health and then defense minister in the Lagos Cabinet. He suffered under the Pinochet dictatorship, was tortured and sent on exile to Australia in 1975. Her father, Air Force Gen. Alberto Bachelet, was a military attaché at the Chilean Embassy in the United States in 1962, during which she attended schools in Washington where she learned to speak English fluently. Allende put General Bachelet in charge of the food distribution office. When Pinochet came to power, Bachelet was detained on charges of treason and was tortured. He died of cardiac arrest.

The daughter and her mother were also detained and tortured at a secret detention camp in Santiago. In 1975, they were exiled to Australia. After a few years, they decided to settle in East Germany, where Bachelet learned German and continued her medical studies at Humboldt University in Berlin. Other than German, she speaks fluent Spanish, French and Portuguese.

Outside her many talents, Bachelet took an interest in civil-military relations. In 1996, she began studies in military strategy at the National Academy of Political and Strategic Studies in Chile. She went on to further studies at the US Inter-American Defense College in Washington, D.C. She graduated from a master's program in military science at the Chilean Army's War Academy.

Following her inauguration, Bachelet said all Chileans older than 60 would immediately begin receiving free care at public hospitals. She is considered somewhat more to the Left than her predecessor. She said she aimed to implement a "nationwide social protection network" by the end of her four-year term.

She has appointed Mario Marcel, a socialist economist and former budget director, to head a commission to reform Chile's pioneer private social security system. "Our country's economic situation allows us to continue to grow, and our goal is to make sure that benefits of that growth reach all Chileans," she said.

She is open about her personal life, saying "I am a mother of three. I don't have a partner." She adds, "I hope there will come a time when I have time for my children, for my family, and if a boyfriend, better, but otherwise I can live."

'Responsible' headlines

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE FORUM WAS ENTITLED "WHO'S AFRAID of Press Freedom?" but other concerns were raised during the open forum.

One of these was that gatherings such as the one held at the Ateneo Graduate School at Rockwell last Monday addressed only the "converted," since most of the audience already agreed with the points raised by the speakers. "We need to go out and talk to the people in the grassroots and tell them why they have a stake in the issue (of press freedom) and why they need to make their voices heard against GMA," said someone in the audience.

In response, former Social Welfare Secretary and "Hyatt 10" figure Dinky Soliman rose to make several things clear. "Most of the people whom you see taking part in the rallies are poor and from grassroots communities," she pointed out. "They are not paid to do this, save perhaps for groups shouldering their transportation expenses. They are aware of the issues, they know what needs to be done, and they are willing to do it."

The trouble, noted Dinky, "is that when it's poor people who are marching and rallying, *napupukpok sila* (they get beaten up). But when anti-riot police see well-dressed, middle-class folk among the rallyists, they are more tolerant. Although, with Ronnie Puno at the helm of the DILG, it seems the police have been emboldened to go after even the well-dressed and better-known leaders."

Dinky's point was that it's not the urban poor or rural folk who need awareness-raising or who need to get off their butts. Public opinion polls have made pretty clear what the majority (who are poor) think of the President and what they believe she ought to do. It's the middle-class and the comfortable—the "well-dressed" set—who have yet to get over their inertia. Decades of education and community organizing work among the poor are bearing results. But it's the people who are supposedly better informed and educated, and who enjoy more options in life, who are stuck in moral dilemmas and are wanting for answers.

* * *

SLOWLY, the net is closing in.

Dinky mentioned that her name is included in the affidavit of a witness, an alleged former New People's Army member who showed up in a hood and dark glasses, who alleged that he had seen her meeting with "communist leaders."

"It is not illegal to talk to anyone from Bayan or Bayan Muna, which are legal organizations," Dinky stressed at the forum. The point of the witness and his handlers, it seems, is to broaden the coverage of the conspiracy charges, even if it smacks of guilt by association.

The same game is being played with the "Batasan Five," party-list lawmakers who are under threat of arrest on charges of rebellion. Admitted leftists who are at the forefront of the anti-Arroyo protests, the five ran under the party-list system and won enough votes to get themselves seats in the House of Representatives.

The party-list system, enshrined in our Constitution, was devised to address the inherent biases in our electoral system for dominant sectors and moneyed individuals. It is meant to open up the legislature to people and sectors who have been underrepresented and marginalized. If there were indeed outstanding warrants for rebellion against the five, the time to enforce them should have been when they filed their certificates of candidacy or anytime before they took their oaths of office. So why go after them now, when they have become full-fledged lawmakers? If the government suspects them of maintaining links with the New People's Army (allegedly by channeling their development funds to the rebels), then prosecutors should come up with proof and concrete charges.

* * *

STILL on the charges against the party-list representatives, a newspaper other than the INQUIRER and owned by a supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo, ran this banner headline yesterday: "Lawmakers linked to coup snub probe." The story said the "Batasan Five" were no-shows at the preliminary investigation to be conducted by prosecutors. It did mention, though that the five denied they boycotted the proceedings, explaining that they received notice of the investigation's re-scheduling (from the afternoon to 10 a.m. that day) just a few minutes before it was to start, leaving their lawyers unprepared. Given that they already had this information, why did the paper's editors persist in saying the lawmakers "snubbed" the proceedings in its headline?

Another newspaper, likewise owned and managed by a personality close to the President, had for its headline yesterday "Hooded ex-NPA fingers Dinky," alluding to the information shared by the state witness in disguise. Though editors will of course use varying standards of news worthiness and language (I have some questions about the use of "fingers") using this particular angle for a banner smacks of sensationalism, to say the least. Then again, perhaps this is what the President means by "responsible" journalism?

* * *

"I'LL ADMIT, I'm scared," declared Luchi Cruz Valdez, of ABS-CBN's news and public affairs department at the forum. "I'm scared that we journalists don't enjoy the support of the public on this issue. I'm scared that should I be picked up by authorities, we won't find anyone behind us."

What people shouldn't forget, the speakers at the forum (including INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot) stressed, was that the moves of government to squelch the free and independent media are of concern not just to journalists but to the citizenry as well. "Journalists are just stewards of the people's right to freedom of expression and information," said Malou Mangahas, a consultant with GMA 7. A free press is indispensable to a democracy, and when the media are controlled or suppressed, democracy is in turn threatened and weakened.

Table manners

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

AS I MENTIONED IN MY LAST COLUMN, I HAVE yet to verify if there is an extant copy of "Lagda" available in nearby libraries, and I am hoping it is not another hoax like the Code of Kalantiaw. Gregorio Zaide listed down a number of years when the book saw print and the only reference I found was this: "*Lagda sa pagca maligdon sa tauong Bisaya, sa nagacalain lain nga mga cahimtang ug pagcabutang sa iang quinabuhi. Hinusay sa usa ca Pareng Agustino Calzado sa provincia sa Sugbu. Guilaqip-an sa mga pagtolonan sa pagcompisal ug pagcomulga, ingon man sa mga pagpahimatngon ni Sta.Teresa de Jesus. Segunda edicion. Binondo 1865. Imprenta de M. Sanchez y Cia. Anloague 6.*"

The book is in Visayan, but the author is not the Jesuit Pedro de Estrada, but an Augustinian who was so modest he didn't even sign his name. When you go on a bibliographical search, you discover that you find more questions than answers.

Readers who want to read the text as translated from the original Visayan can check out volume 5 of Zaide's 12-volume "Documentary Sources of Philippine History." Those who want to compare "Lagda" with the more famous Tagalog book of manners "Urbana at Felisa" will have to visit the National Library, the Lopez Museum of a university library because this once-popular book is currently out of print. From the epistolary form of the book, we note that Urbana lives in the city and she writes letters to Felisa who lives in the country giving advice on good manners particularly for a boy named Modesto. One of my favorite parts of "Urbana and Felisa" concerns conduct during meals, thus I looked up the separate section on meals in "Lagda" and was not disappointed. While many of these rules are still practiced today and many are common sense norms, it is funny when spelled out in black and white like:

"If something is to be served which needs to be peeled, peel it before the meal begins.

"Wash your hands well before you go to the table because it is unpleasant and loathsome to see dirty hands handling food.

"Do not leave on the table or give to others what you have already touched.

"Do not gargle when others are still eating.

"Do not stick out your tongue to take food into your mouth.

"Do not keep your mouth full like a hungry wave, or swallow the food like a *sawa*. Do not feed yourself too fast like a monkey that knows it is to be trapped or driven away."

What I find fascinating here is the change from our *kamayan* culture to that which required a table, spoon, fork, knife and napkin. We are not even talking here of the elaborate Victorian times when various implements were made to be used for specific foods and purposes: fish knives, tongs to hold escargot, strawberry spoon with strainer, watermelon spoons, long drink spoons for stirring liquid in a glass that also doubles as a straw. For many Filipinos then as now, the "basic" things require more than a banana leaf on a low table and your hands:

"It is a proper thing for the well-educated man to prepare clean cloth for wiping the hands because it is shameful to remove dirt from one's hands on his dress.

"The plates to be used should have been washed well, both inside and outside so that they may not repel those who will see and hold them and expose their owner to embarrassment and shame.

"Do not stir the food with your fingers but cut it out with the knife or with the spoon.

"Do not bite into any bone as if you were a dog and do not suck at it because this is a sign of greed.

"Do not use your bare hands for transferring food from one place to another, but use the fork or spoon, or else jerk it off from your plate to the other one.

"Do not gather the food with both hands but take it bit by bit with your left hand.

"Do not lick the fingers with your lips, do not smell the food before putting it in your mouth and do not blow it to cool it off."

The last needs some comment because Kentucky Fried Chicken encourages us to do otherwise since the colonel's chicken is "finger-lickin' good." Then look around you at table and you will notice people blowing into their soup to cool it before ingesting.

There are social norms that are more complicated:

"Do not be asking for food like a hungry dog barking for its food and shouting so that you should be served. If you are told to eat with your parents at a table, eat standing, but if you are asked to sit down, choose the lowest seat.

"Do not eat ahead of the others, and not be the last one to finish.

"If you are eating with other people, serve them first.

"Do not look around to see how people are eating or what food is being served to them.

"If many kinds of food are served, it is a sign of courtesy to take a little of everything, but do not eat them too hurriedly because it is a sign of greediness to finish them right away.

"Do not empty your plate completely but leave a little on it so that it will not look as if a hermit crab has been eating from it."

I don't know how a hermit crab eats, but we often see people leaving one morsel on the plate, the so-called *pedazo de verguenza* (literally, piece of shame), because to consume everything was a sign of greed. Times have changed because parents today order their children to finish everything on their plates.

Why do the rules change? That is a question better posed to an anthropologist than a historian.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Why Filipino

FOR SOME TIME NOW, WE'VE BEEN HEARING EDUCATORS and government officials—all the way up to the President herself—lamenting the deterioration of English in the Philippines and how this will affect our international competitiveness. All kinds of solutions have been proposed, from the exclusive use of English as a medium of instruction to "English-only" zones in schools.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Last week, the Department of Education released results of the latest National Achievement Test administered to high school seniors, and reported that proficiency in Filipino had deteriorated. Specifically, average scores decreased from 61.3 percent (meaning "near mastery") in 2001 to 42.5 percent ("below mastery") in 2005.

What has been the public's response to these latest test results? In stark contrast to the frequent expressions of dismay over alleged deterioration in English proficiency, there has been silence over the NAT findings for Filipino. Many of my fellow professors at the University of the Philippines even missed the story, which appeared in the INQUIRER albeit on the upper left hand corner. Several shook their heads in slight dismay; others shrugged their shoulders.

I have different interpretations of these responses. With so many pressing problems of leadership and governance in the country, proficiency in Filipino seems almost like a trivial problem. I suspect many Filipinos actually think it's a language that doesn't even have to be taught, since we are, after all, Filipinos. We think all Filipinos will pick up the language almost instinctively, at home, in the streets, through mass media. And if that doesn't happen, it doesn't really matter since we think we don't need Filipino to achieve the Filipino dream, which is to live abroad.

Ice cream slips

I agree that English is important—I've certainly benefited from a fairly good command of the language in terms of international consultancies. But I also know what it means to lack proficiency in a national language.

I belong to a generation, and class, of Filipinos where Filipino was actually prohibited in school. We alternated between an English and Mandarin Chinese week, when we would be punished if we didn't speak the prescribed language. That meant being punished for speaking in Tagalog (the term "Filipino" was almost never used). Not only that, we were rewarded for squealing on classmates who dared speak the unspeakable—the stool pigeons given ice cream slips which they could accumulate to get popsicles and ice cream sandwiches.

Did that system work? No. I have classmates who went through that ice cream slip system but didn't get to master English or Mandarin Chinese. Languages can't be forced. But neither can they be learned through classrooms alone. We had Filipino classes in high school, but it consisted of boring lectures on grammar. I eventually learned Filipino when I entered UP, in my junior college year and even today, while fairly comfortable with spoken Filipino, I still have problems with reading and writing.

And I am ashamed about being a Filipino who is not so comfortable with Filipino. And yet, I know I am not alone, and sometimes it isn't just a matter of class. Filipinos in general have suffered from the neglect of a language policy, with tremendous losses in all spheres of public and private life, economically, politically, culturally. I will even argue that we lose international competitiveness because of lack of mastery of our national language.

Schizophrenia

We've suffered a kind of linguistic schizophrenia. The DepEd, as well as individual schools, kept vacillating about the language to use for teaching, lacking clarity and consistency. We've tried an English-only policy, then Filipino-only, then bilingualism.

It didn't help that Filipino itself, decreed by President Manuel L. Quezon in 1935 as a Tagalog-based national language, developed in fitful spurts. An Institute of National Language was supposed to enrich this language by bringing in words from all our languages, but did this with mixed success, hobbled by disagreements among linguists. In the late 1960s and into the early 1970s, riding on a wave of nationalism, purists tried to create "indigenous" words. If the purists had their way, a school dean would now be called *gatguro* and department chairpersons, well, that would have been problematic because "chair" had been translated as "salumpuwit," the holder of the ass.

After 60 years of a Tagalog-based Filipino, we're not quite sure yet about what we have. The other week at a meeting of department *salumpuwits* in UP, we grappled with the theme for our college recognition ceremonies. A committee had proposed "*Patuloy na paglinang ng kahusayan para sa kaunlaran ng bayan.*" It was promptly torn apart, word by word, as grammatically imprecise, and now reads: "*Pagpapatuloy na paglinang sa kahusayan para sa kaunlaran ng bayan.*"

But that only shows how difficult it is to craft a national language. Tagalog uses a lot of duplication of syllables, which the Visayan languages don't. Note though that grammar doesn't always correspond to colloquial use. Even a native Tagalog speaker like Mike Enriquez of Channel 7 was once criticized for thanking viewers, at the end of each newscast, for their "*pagtiwala*" (trust). He has since changed that to "*pagtitiwala.*"

Inferiority complex

But the quibbling is all too often over form, rather than substance. We've lagged behind our neighbors in developing a national language. After Indonesia declared independence in 1945, a wise Sukarno chose Malay, a language spoken by a small minority, as the basis for their national language, Bahasa Indonesia. He could have chosen Javanese, which like Tagalog was spoken by the political elite, but this would have created resentment among hundreds of other ethnicities. Today, Bahasa Indonesia is a true national language, used in homes, schools, offices.

I'm afraid we've never really taken our languages seriously. We still call them dialects, the "vernacular," sometimes with an almost derisive tone. When Filipinos migrate, they drop Tagalog or the other "dialects," almost as if the language reminds them of the poverty and deprivation they left behind. The inferiority complex we have with our languages reflects a broader national inferiority complex.

And we're paying the price for that. A group of graduate students in my linguistic anthropology class reported the other day on the Metro Manila Development Authority's Filipino traffic signs, and said that non-Tagalogs, as well as some Tagalogs, actually could not understand some of the signs.

Now if our Filipino is inadequate for communicating with each other on traffic rules, how can we even begin to talk about national values and concepts like nationhood and nationalism?

On Friday, I'll explain why our lack of nationalism, in language and all other spheres of public life, actually makes us less competitive in this age of globalism.

Edsa gave the world just a glimpse of what RP can do

IT IS UNFORTUNATE AND IRONIC that, just as Time Asia magazine carried a commemorative feature article on the 20th anniversary of our 1986 People Power Revolution, truncheon-wielding policemen would violently disperse unarmed Filipinos converging at Edsa. The thought that the whole world was witnessing all that while the Philippines was marking People Power dampened my pride and joy.

In the article, Anthony Spaeth quoted a report describing our being "passive, unreflective, undisciplined and prone to loyalty toward personalities" as flaws in our national character. From a different angle, these flaws would be an indication of our resiliency, spontaneity and flexibility.

Foreign analysts do not have to look far to figure out why Filipinos continue to rank in the happiness index higher than those in more affluent and industrialized countries. Those analysts take as weaknesses our virtues as a people.

Time Asia magazine credited People Power as the Filipino people's contribution to history, "a true gift to the world," *handog ng* Pilipino *sa mundo*. The world might get to understand us better if they realized what we have done even before Edsa.

We wrote the first Constitution and proclaimed the first republic in Asia. Bloodied but unbowed, did we not stand taller before the eyes of the freedom-loving world for our heroism at Bataan and Corregidor during World War II?

No, Mr. Spaeth, People Power was not all that we could do. Twenty years is a minuscule dot of eternity. Edsa I gives only a glimpse of what the Filipinos are still capable of. The spirit lives on.

—LEOMIL O. APORTADERA, MD,
36 Commission Civil St.,
Jaro, 5000 Iloilo City

GSIS concerned with pensioners' condition

REGARDING THE LETTER OF Antonio Borja (PDI, 2/22/06), titled "GSIS' insensitivity to elderly pensioners," we would like to inform the public that the Government Service Insurance System precisely adopted the eCard system to allow its members, including pensioners, to receive their cash benefits and pensions with the least inconvenience.

GSIS checks are crossed-checks; as such they need to be deposited first. The crossed-check policy is intended to prevent unscrupulous individuals from taking advantage of our pensioners by discounting their pensions. It will thus allow our pensioners to get full value for their pensions. But pensioners will have to wait for their pension checks to be cleared first before they can get the cash value.

The eCard crediting of pensions is a faster way of distributing pensions. Through the eCard, pensioners get their pension immediately. For GSIS members and pensioners, withdrawing their cash payments from the ATM via the eCard is much easier than going to the bank and having their checks encashed at the counter. Besides, the eCard can be used at any ATM machine nearest the residence of the holder. And the eCard is practically fraud-free, unlike check payment, which could be pilfered or lost or encashed through forgery.

Since the issuance of checks is done away with under the eCard system, the GSIS saves a substantial amount of money that could augment GSIS funds for the members' benefits. The increase in GSIS pensions intends to maintain their purchasing power. True, the 3 percent increase in pensions, effective January 2006, may not be substantial at present, but it could increase over the years as the GSIS improves its net income from its cost-saving measures, like the eCard system.

Far from being a "callous human being without emotion and no sympathy for elderly people," GSIS general manager Winston Garcia is in fact very much concerned with their condition, as with that of all GSIS members. This is the reason he has introduced reforms in the GSIS, ignoring unfair criticism from those who benefited from the old system at the expense of the members. We appreciate Borja for calling our attention to the feelings of GSIS members, especially pensioners.

—ENRIQUETA P. DISUANCO,
executive vice president-operations sector,
Government Service Insurance System.
Financial Center, Pasay City

Liberal Party tradition

IN EXTENDING FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE to the victims of civil and human rights violations under Proclamation 1017, the Liberal Party is only following in the footsteps of the party during the martial law administration of President Marcos.

It will be recalled that the members of the Liberal Party were among the victims of violence under the Marcos regime (e.g., the Plaza Miranda bombing in 1971). While the bombers were never identified, many believed that Marcos' followers were behind the bombing, one of the incidents that was used by Marcos to declare martial law a year later.

After Marcos declared martial law in September 1972, the Liberal Party, led by its then president, Sen. Gerardo Roxas, mounted a sustained and principled opposition to the Marcos dictatorship. That opposition contributed to Marcos' downfall 14 years later in February 1986.

Today, LP and Senate President Franklin Drilon has vowed: "[D]uring these difficult and uncertain times, we must prevent the weakening of our democratic institutions and protect civil liberties as the cornerstone of our democracy."

We call on Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, as a prominent and respected official of the LP, to join his colleagues in protecting civil and human rights, which are now violated under the shadow of Proclamation 1017 and General Order No. 5. We are sure Mayor Atienza is also concerned with protecting the constitutional rights of his constituents in Manila.

—AARON MERCADO,
Belair Village, Makati City

When democracy is a farce

EDSA I WAS A SHINING MOMENT in our history as a people. It reverberated throughout the whole world. Twenty years later, we ask how such a victory so glorious could be celebrated with a whimper, or worse, with indifference? Where did we go wrong?

In our euphoria, we naively assumed that the change in the political system would automatically turn the country for the better. We overlooked the more challenging call for reforms. We relaxed our vigilance and in the process created new monsters.

If Edsa I was the bloodless revolution that culminated on the streets, we need an Edsa fought right in our hearts, in our common consciousness. If we exorcised a political demon in Edsa I, we haven't yet our own demons of greed, dishonesty and apathy, if not despair.

We blame our political leaders and rightly so, but let us remember that they were voted into office (at least until the issue of electoral fraud is settled). They come from our ranks!

There is the rush to change our leadership, our political system. Let us remember that without a renewed Filipino people to sustain whatever gains we make, democracy, justice and peace will continue to elude us. Have we not learned from Edsa I and II?

Democracy is a farce when ballots are for sale, or cast only on the basis of name recall or under threat; when civil servants start off idealistic and end up harassed by, or resigned to, or coopted into the corrupt system; when corruption is not only accepted but abetted as "modus operandi"; worst of all, when the ordinary citizen's conscience is so duped into believing that minor acts of bribery, lies, theft are nothing to feel guilty about or be ashamed of "because everybody is doing it."

Whatever we do, whatever happens, we are all in this together. Let us do something together. Let us truly aspire for the highest degree of intolerance for dishonesty, for our sake, our children and our country.

—LUZ D. TORRES-HECKER,
dodropin@mozcom.com

Responsible and independent GMA 7

THIS REFERS TO THE MARCH 6 news item under Alcuin Papa's byline.

According to the report, Bro. Eddie Villanueva claimed in an interview that "a government agent called QTV or GMA 7 not to air the 'Diyos at Bayan' episode because 'it did not conform with the standards' set by PNP chief Arturo Lomibao."

This is to clarify that QTV/GMA 7 did not receive any call from any government agency regarding this episode or any past episode of "Diyos at Bayan." The decision not to air the episode was solely the network's decision, based on its existing policies to ensure the balanced treatment of issues.

GMA Network Inc.—which is in charge of programming for QTV Channel 11—operates responsibly and independently.

GMA Network will always be against any assault on freedom of speech and expression. It also upholds responsibility in the exercise of this freedom. Our track record shows that the network has always upheld this responsibility and independence.

—BUTCH S. RAQUEL,
head, Corporate Communications,
GMA Network Inc., Quezon City

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Hitches hounding NorthRail project

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE MODERN RAILway project NorthRail has suffered hitches in the last four months, but these have been because of the government's aim to install a monitoring system, ensure proper design and reduce costs, an official of the state-owned North Luzon Railways Corp. said.

Jose Cortes Jr., NLRC president, admitted delays in the hiring of a consultancy firm that would assist the agency in the independent evaluation of the $1-billion project, funded by China's largest loan so far in Asia.

The Philippine Export-Import Bank recently approved the terms of reference, including the consultancy ceiling of $8.5 million and the lifting of monetary guarantees from its mother agency, the Bases Conversion Development Authority, Cortes told leaders and members of the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday.

Four firms from the United States, Germany, Australia and France have expressed interest to bid. Government contracts require state-owned firms like the NLRC to engage the services of consultants in the technical and engineering aspects of projects, he said.

Cortes said the contractor, China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. (CNMEC), has revised the design for the project's Phase 1 to consider stronger earthquakes in the country. Phase 1 spans a 32-km stretch from Caloocan City in Metro Manila to the City of Malolos in Bulacan.

Initially, the design used as reference earthquakes of magnitude 7 on the Richter scale.

"The structure needs a strong foundation," he said.

According to him, the consulting company has to be on board before the updated design is submitted "very soon." *Tonette Orejas, PDI C. L. Desk*

ROUNDUP

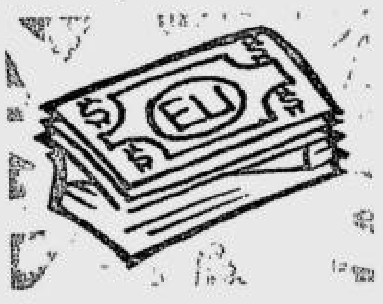
Tree planting urged

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte is pushing for a massive planting of trees in the landslide-prone village of Carmen in Baguio District. Last week, floods and landslides sent 115 families from the village fleeing. "The whole area needs protection. Some areas of Carmen are still forested which I think really needs to be protected. The cleared areas must be planted with trees for us to avoid landslides and flood," he said. Carmen village chair Alfred Austral said they were coordinating with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the tree planting. *Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Airport cop slain

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—An airport policeman was shot dead by a bonnet-wearing gunman in front of a bus terminal in Batangas City over the weekend, police said. Sherub Rae Sediego, 30, a resident of Parañaque City and assigned at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, was waiting for a ride to Manila in front of the Jam Transit Terminal in Barangay Calicanto at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday after attending a birthday party of an office mate when an unidentified man shot him in the nape. The victim died on the spot while the suspect fled to Bauan town. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

EU help for health



CITY OF CALAPAN—The European Union has granted P94 million for the renovation and expansion of the Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital and its six satellite hospitals in the province and for employee training. Gov. Arnan Panaligan announced the grant in a meeting called by Oriental Mindoro League of Municipalities president and Pola Mayor Alex Aranas last Feb. 27. Aranas said the league had also asked the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. for donations of medicines. *Marciano Virola Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

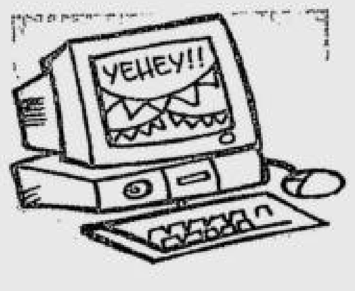
Laguna group revived

LAGUNA'S business, political and religious leaders have revived the "Ang Konsyensya ng Laguna," an organization that existed in the 1970s and 1980s. Rodolfo "Totoy" Tingzon, founder of the original "Konsyensya," hosted a gathering at his residence last month to spearhead the reformation of the group that will seek to uplift living conditions in Laguna, according to a news release. Among those present during the affair were Gov. Teresita Lazaro, Vice Gov. Edwin Olivares and Board Member Benedicto Palacol Jr. Tingzon was elected chair, Roy Almoro vice chair and Rene Concordia provincial coordinator.

Suspended cops

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Two police officers were suspended last week for various offenses. Cagayan police director Senior Supt. James Andres Melad said PO1 Renen Genoveza and PO2 Janifer Malana were suspended for 30 days and 45 days. Malana was charged with grave misconduct and serious physical injuries while Genoveza was charged with grave misconduct. Police said two more policemen were also investigated for allegedly firing their guns indiscriminately. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Festival live online



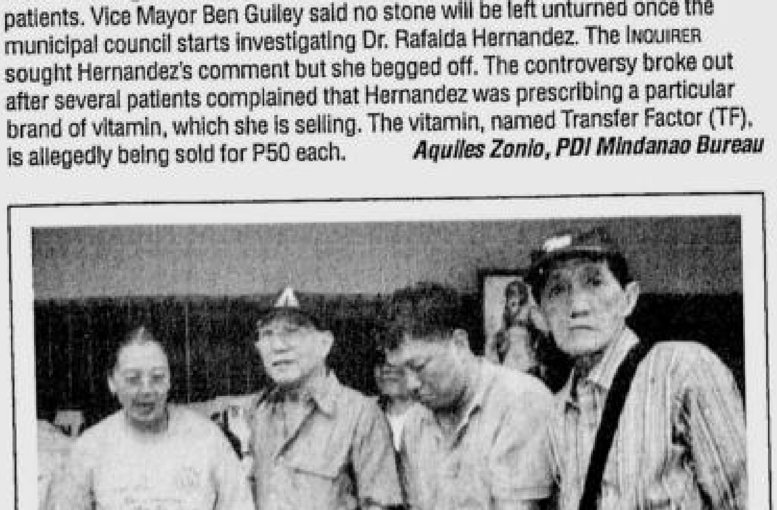
THE HUNDRED ISLANDS Global Pinoy homecoming is live online. It's a grand reunion of Global Pinoy Alamimians or Pangasinenses during the Balikbayan night dubbed as 2006 High on March 15-16 as part of the celebration of their weeklong fiesta. Alaminos City Mayor Hernani Braganza embraced the Web to create a new level of promoting the Hundred Islands and to showcase and preview the things to come for Metro Alaminos, a vision he is looking forward to in 2015. He invited international surfers worldwide and the Global Pinoys to watch the festivity and a series of investment forums sponsored by the city government and the *balikbayans* via a live streaming video that gained tremendous success last year.

'Last Two' raided

COTABATO CITY—Police raided seven Last Two digits betting joints here on Sunday and arrested at least 24 people. The Last Two digits game is very popular in Mindanao because individuals can place bets for as low as P5. The winning combination is usually taken from the last digits of the last two balls drawn in the lotto. Chief Insp. Edilberto Leonardo, head of the Special Anti-Illegal Gambling Task Force in Mindanao, said those who were arrested would be charged in court with violating the anti-gambling law. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Health exec probed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The municipal council of Malungon, Sarangani would investigate claims that the town's health officer was selling medicine to patients. Vice Mayor Ben Guiley said no stone will be left unturned once the municipal council starts investigating Dr. Rafaida Hernandez. The INQUIRER sought Hernandez's comment but she begged off. The controversy broke out after several patients complained that Hernandez was prescribing a particular brand of vitamin, which she is selling. The vitamin, named Transfer Factor (TF), is allegedly being sold for P50 each. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



THE PHILIPPINE CHINESE Charitable Association Inc., which owns and operates the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center (CGHMC) and the CGH-College of Nursing and Liberal Arts, turns over essential supplies including tents, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils, food, medicines, underwear, blankets, towel and flashlights to the victims of the landslide in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte. Pledges for donations from the board of directors and members of the organizations have reached P4.5 million, according to a news release.

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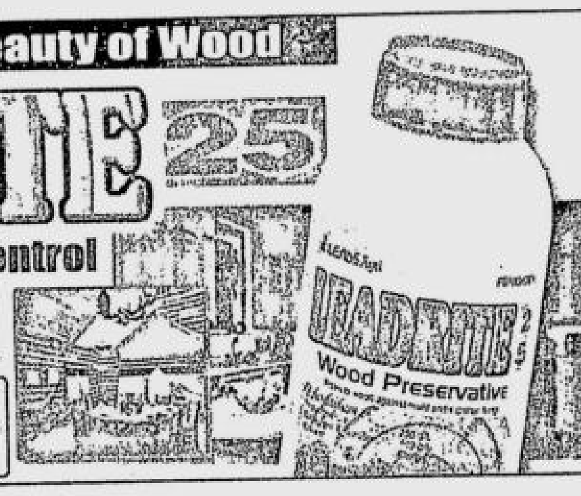

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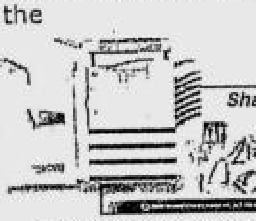

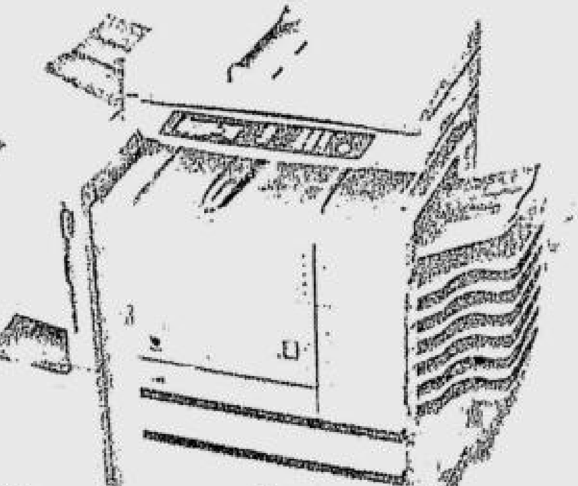

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Thieves take steel beams of FVR Megadike

BACOLOR, PAMPANGA—VERTICAL beams that bar the entry of trucks to the Japanese-funded P153.8-million road at the eastern section of the FVR Megadike here have been illegally removed or stolen over the weekend, officials of the Save San Fernando Movement (SSFM) and the Department of Public Works and Highways confirmed on Monday.

Marni Castro, technical committee head of the SSFM, said three beams of the Del Rosario-San Fernando section had been dismantled.

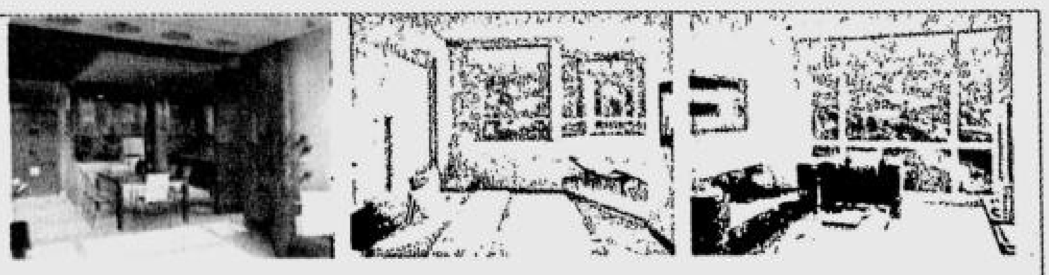
Two others appeared to have been hit by trucks. A beam near the transverse dike was intact, while another near the ramp was taken apart.

"Those were all standing when we went off-roading at the dike on Saturday," Castro said in a telephone interview.

Ramon Aquino, DPWH director in Central Luzon, said in a separate phone interview that two beams of the Del Rosario-Porac segment were missing during Friday's inspection by DPWH Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan.

The beams, all made of steel, are 2.7 meters long. These were installed at the 15,8-km asphalted stretch of the eastern dike that now serves as an alternate route to and from Angeles City and Bacolor and Porac towns.

The contractor, China Water and Electric Corp., completed the project last month. Funding came from a P4.5-billion loan of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for the Pinatubo hazards urgent mitigation project's second phase, a DPWH report showed. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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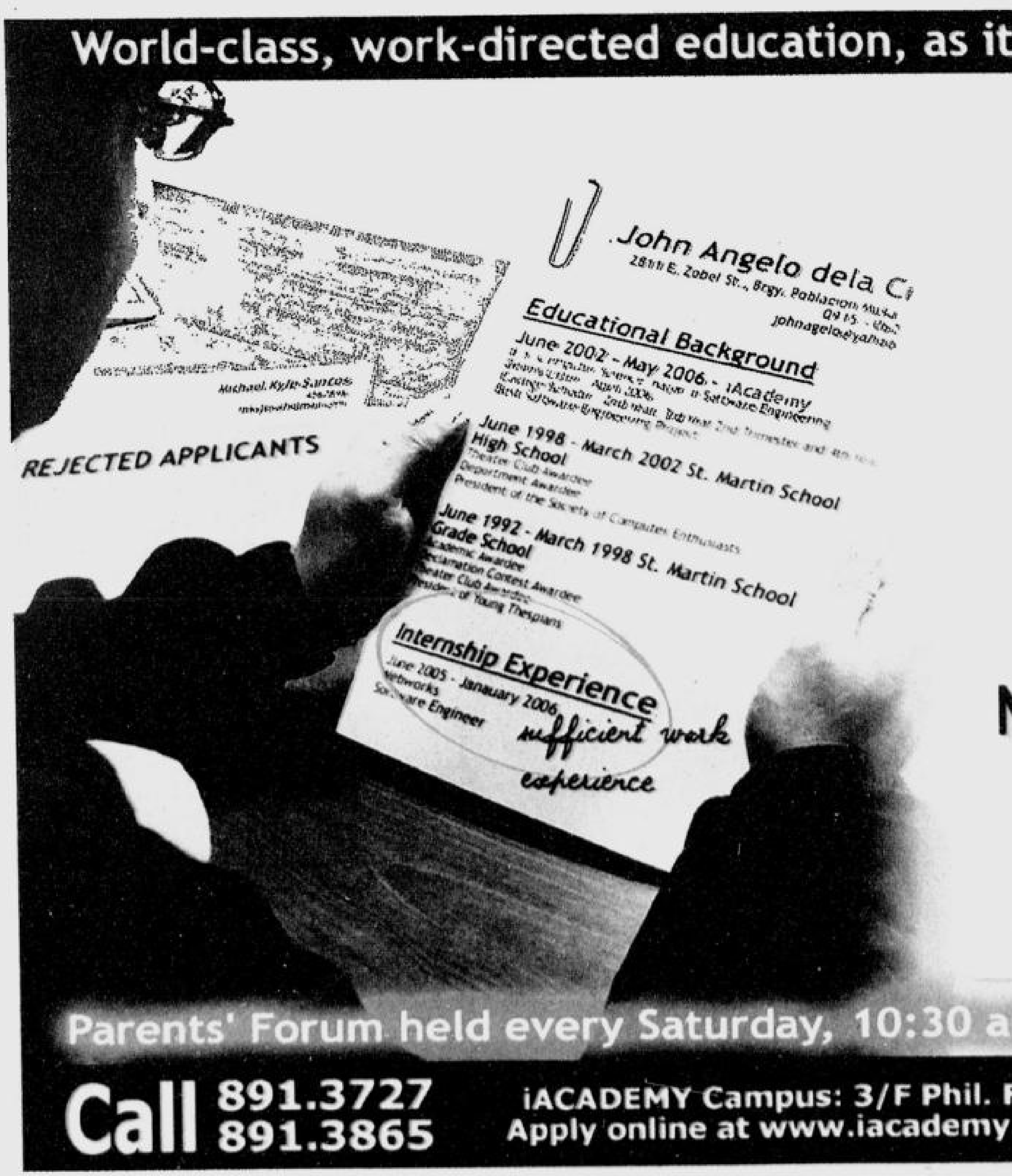
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Nutribun wins praise among Baguio execs

MASUSTANSYA NA MASARAP PA!

BAGUIO CITY—Nutribun power has reached far and wide.

The city's Kataguan Watch (KW), a non-government organization that revived nutribun for its feeding project for first year students of a public high school, bagged Nestlé Philippines' outstanding nutrition program together with four other groups.

The KW's "First Meal" project was among the 20 nominees for the top feeding programs in the search launched by the multinational firm in 2004.

The project aimed to improve the health and school performance of students of the Baguio National High School by providing them with nutritious meals for breakfast.

Other winners were the health care program of Development Bank of the Philippines; the family health and well-being program of Sta. Cruz, Laguna; the New Lucena LGU nutri-health program in Iloilo; and the Calinog nutrition committee program, also in Iloilo.

Each of the winners will receive a P100,000 prize.

KW member Chiqui Torres, who co-organized the "First Meal" project, said the award only proved that eating breakfast was important for students.

"This award only shows that it is not only us who believe that children must eat nutritious food before going to school. We hope that this can be duplicated and sustained," she said.

A year after 100 students of the BCNHS benefited from the feeding program, the school's health officials found that their students, who were in various stages of malnutrition, had gained weight.

Aside from the weight increase, Torres said the project also helped students develop the habit of eating breakfast before going to school or starting the day's activities.

"We achieved our objectives, with nutribun as our main tool, to increase the weight and improve the eating habits of these students," Torres said.

A 2005 report of the BCNHS health team said the beneficiaries had shown "positive signs" in terms of nutrition and health.

The report showed that malnutrition had been minimized. From "below normal," the underweight students reached "normal" nutritional status, the report said.

Dr. Jocelyn de Jesus, BCNHS doctor, said the school and the KW agreed to extend the project this year because of its success.

She said at least 10 beneficiaries of last year's program would have to continue participating in the program to improve their weights.

De Jesus said most participants were children of construction workers, vendors, drivers, and porters whose incomes could hardly provide full breakfast for their children. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cops say 'jueteng' workers now financiers of gambling

CAMP SATURNINO DUMLAO, Nueva Vizcaya—If police officials are to be believed, bet collectors here have managed to pool together enough cash to finance their "jueteng" operations.

The illegal numbers game was revived in at least four towns early this month.

Senior Supt. Rogelio Damazo, acting provincial police director, said a group of *cabo* (head bet collectors) had been running their own operations in what he called as "guerrilla-type" (clandestine) activities.

Damazo made the claim in denying reports that local jueteng operations were being financed by gambling lords and had the usual support of local officials and police in exchange for grease money.

"I'm also surprised by this setup. This is rather new to me. But this is what our intelligence reports say," Damazo told the INQUIRER.

Bet collectors continued to make the rounds on Wednesday in at least four towns, but without the usual draws of winning numbers, according to a *cabo*.

Instead, the winning combinations for the thrice daily draws were selected by operators, and relayed among the chief *cabo* in each town through text messages.

On Tuesday, the winning number pairs were 29-29, 18-1 and 33-5. Wednesday's first winning combination was 33-5.

The problem is difficult to solve, Damazo said, because it involved "lazy people" who insist on earning "easy money" through illegal gambling.

"The government should have a dialogue to discuss measures on how to provide these people (jueteng dependents) with jobs," he said.

Police sources, however, dismissed Damazo's claim.

They said the revived jueteng operations were being funded by gambling lords and that these had the blessings of government officials.

"How can that be possible when these [*cabo*] themselves had admitted that they barely had anything to eat if jueteng did not operate? Do they have enough capital to pay the *intelihensiya* (bribe)?" a source said, referring to grease money given to government officials.

Another police source said the alleged lover of a police official, in supposed connivance with several local officials, had been running jueteng operations in the province.

Damazo, who met with Catholic Bishop Ramon Villena on Tuesday, said he did not know the supposed illegal gambling operators here.

"Even the bishop asked me about the veracity of these [reports], but I told him I did not know them (operators)," he said.

"I don't think gambling lords will still dare to stage an organized jueteng operation [in the province] after what happened [in January]," Damazo said.

A raid in January led to the arrest of 13 *cabo* and the relief of two top police officials. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

3 dead, 3 injured in Imus accident

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—THREE PERSONS were killed while three others were injured when the Ford Expedition they were riding in slammed an electric post along a dimly lit part of the Aguinaldo Highway in Imus, Cavite over the weekend, police said on Monday.

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, Calabarzon police director, identified the fatalities as Jocelyn Sedano, 23, driver; Mark Dalid, 22; and Russel Ramos, 19, all of Barangay Bayang Luma, Imus.

The victims died from severe head and body injuries, Noble said.

Injured were Benjo Lavalle, 24; Michaelangelo Velasco, 19; and Allen Capoy 23, also of the same barangay.

Noble said the victims were traversing the national highway in Barangay Palico at around 3 a.m. on Saturday when Sedano apparently lost control of the steering wheel and smashed into a wooden electric post. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Citrus farmers restive over mining project

By Melvin Gascon
Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya

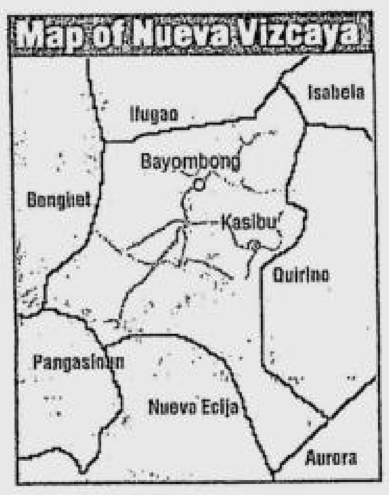
KALANGUYA FARMER PALMA RAFAEL WAS teary-eyed as he watched his orchard bulldozed to the ground, his flowering citrus trees flattened.

His chest ached, realizing that the land he had toiled for nearly 30 years in the mountain village of Papaya in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, was going to be lost forever.

His plea that the earth-moving activities be stopped was drowned by the engine's roar. Through gestures, he protested to a Chinese supervising the work. The man simply gestured back, which, to Rafael, meant: "It's OK, I'll give you money. I'll give you money."

Rafael, 50, known in the village as "Pa-ay," has realized he had made a terrible mistake. About three weeks ago, he agreed to sell his rights over his seven-hectare property, including 649 citrus trees, to operators of a magnetite mining project.

His "*oma*" or orchard is part of a 20-hectare forest zone that is now covered by a small-scale mining permit issued by the provincial government in January to Agbiag Mining and Development Corp.



Agbiag Mining has forged a deal with the Namnama Cabinuangan Magnetite Small Scale Miners Association, which is composed of local villagers, supposedly for the latter to provide labor for its operations to extract iron ore deposits.

It also committed to buy the iron ore at P50 per cubic meter—half of which would supposedly go to Rafael, and the other half, to Namnama.

"Agbiag" is an Ilocano word meaning "to live;" "namnama," also an Ilocano word, means "hope." But for a group that has since stood against the project, the Agbiag-Namnama magnetite venture is full of irony.

Litmus test

The magnetite project will serve as a litmus test on the ability of government to introduce what it claims to be "sustainable mining" in mineral-rich areas in the province, while maintaining ecological and social balance in the affected communities.

But for members of the Malabing Valley Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. (MVMPCI), an organization of citrus farmers from six of 30 villages of Kasibu in Malabing Valley, the project portents the death of the thriving industry of Nueva Vizcaya, touted as the "Citrus Capital" of the country.

IN THE KNOW

Magnetite's many uses

MAGNETITE is a black to brownish metallic stone with magnetic properties. It is an ore of iron used in making steel, nails, kitchen appliances, furniture, tools, bridges, buildings, automobiles, construction equipment, manufacturing machinery, highway construction, shipbuilding, trains, railroads, etc.

Small grains of magnetite occur in almost all igneous rocks and metamorphic rocks, as well as many sedimentary rocks.

SOURCES: http://www.rocksandminerals.com; http://en.wikipedia.org

The 17,000-hectare valley is the biggest producer of citrus fruits in the Philippines, with a daily average output of 20 tons during the six-month harvest season, or 9 million kilograms a year. It is host to about 150,000 fruiting trees and provides livelihood to about 1,000 tribal families, records showed.

Malabing Valley farmers produce the sweet Vizcaya oranges: Satzuma seedless, Hamlin, Poncan, Washington Navel, Clementine, Valencia and California varieties. There are also the juicy Red Chandler and Davao pomelo varieties.

Watershed

Perfecto Sison Jr., MVMPCI general manager, says the citrus farmers are restive as they strongly believe that the Agbiag mining project will deplete the already scarce irrigation supply of rice fields and citrus orchards in the valley.

He says the mining area threatens to destroy the watershed forest that supplies the Malong, Alumadin and Pahduan rivers in Papaya, all tributaries of the Malabing River.

"The siltation that this project will cause on the rivers will kill our livelihood, especially now that we see that the mountain is being dug up, with the loose earth just waiting to be eroded," says Sison.

There are no safety measures being put in place, he adds.

Rafael sought the MVMPCI's help as he believed he could no longer trust local officials who persistently wooed him to agree to the project.

Shortchanged?

He was promised P3.4 million as compensation for his land and the citrus trees that would be destroyed by the project. The money would be handed to him before miners would even touch the ground, he was told.

According to Sison, Rafael has been shortchanged because had he waited, his 649 citrus trees could have produced about 39,000 kg of fruits in one harvest season, or earned for him about P1.3 million at P35 a kg.

FARMER Palma Rafael mourns the death of his citrus orchard to give way to a magnetite mining project in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya. MELVIN GASCON

The estimated P6.8 million that Rafael could have earned over a period of five years is far greater than the P3.2 million that the company had supposedly promised him, Sison says.

Melanie Rafael-Chengay, 26, Rafael's second of 10 children, says her father had to sign documents because he was prevailed upon by local officials who were pushing the project.

Unschooled, Rafael admits he did not know what the documents were, except that he was supposedly assured that these would facilitate the payment of his millions.

But more than two weeks after heavy equipment started clearing the land, he has not received even a single peso.

Villagers say Namnama was hastily organized purposely for the Agbiag project to comply with requirements of Republic Act No. 7076 or the Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991. Under the law, the government, through the local governments, grants small-scale mining contracts to people's organizations, intended to provide livelihood to local residents.

But villagers insist that no honest-to-goodness consultation was conducted for the mining project.

Promises

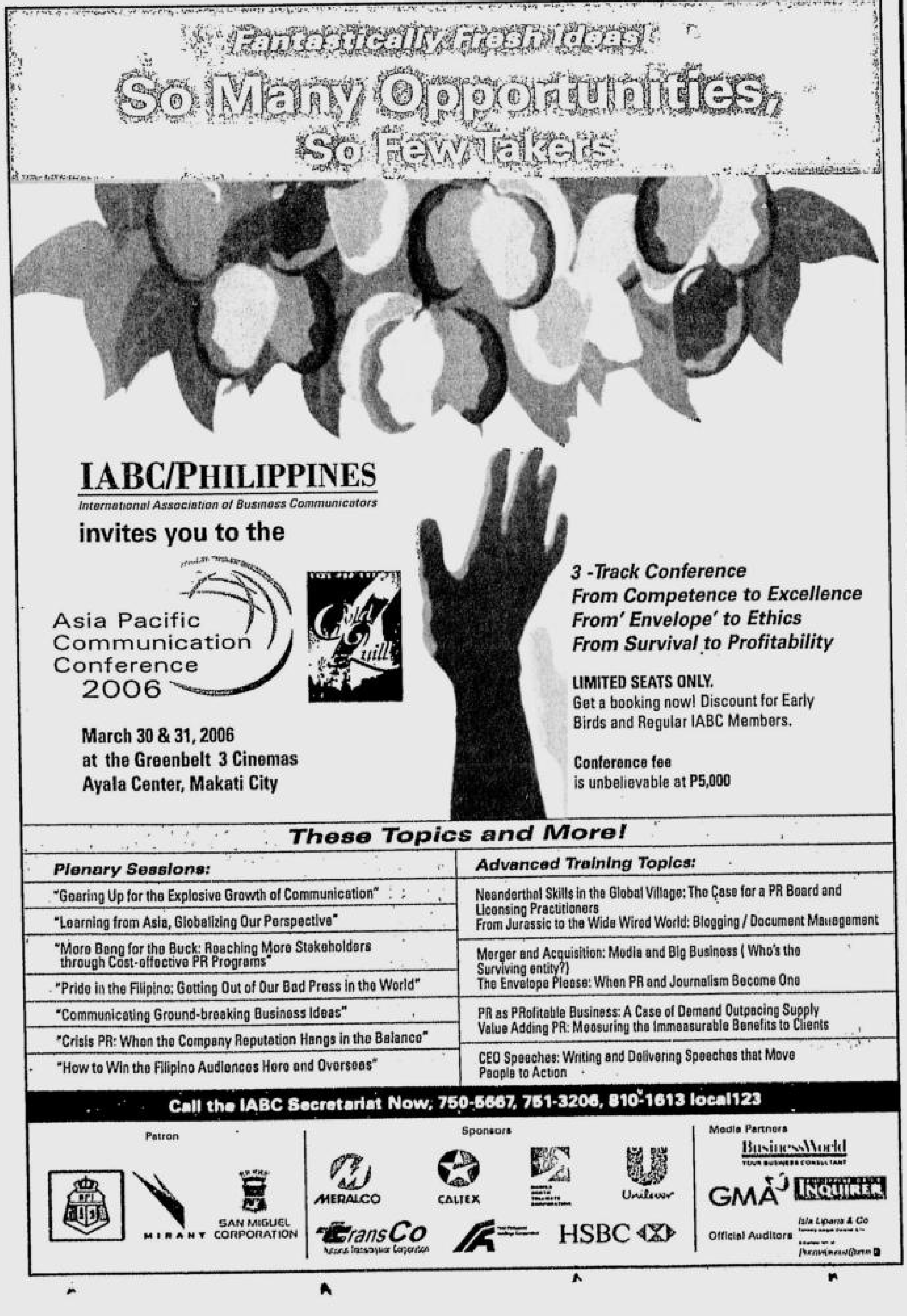
Mercy Agustin, a farmer, says village officials and mining proponents did not explain fully to the people the advantages and disadvantages of the project, except that the company would supposedly improve the roads, build bridges, bring in electricity, put up a hospital, and provide jobs for residents.

What has also puzzled residents more is that three weeks after Agbiag started operations, those who the company previously enlisted in a massive recruitment activity, are still awaiting deployment.

"Many of the people are convinced about the project because of the promise of jobs. They are now starting to feel uneasy because they see that machines have been doing all the work. They just go to the site and watch," Agustin says.

Residents, she adds, are likewise baffled over the presence of two Chinese who watch over the daily operations. MVMPCI officers suspect that

CITRUS/A21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Invitation for Bids (IFB)

JUDICIAL REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF THE JUDICIARY DATA CENTER AND ICT NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Loan No. 7191 PH

IFB No. BAC-APJR-03-ICB-Supply and Installation of Information System

1. This Invitation for Bids (IFB) follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 616 of 16 October 2003.
2. The Government of the Philippines has received loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the Judicial Reform Support Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this *loan* to payments under the agreement(s) resulting from this IFB: BAC-APJR-03-ICB Supply and Installation of Information System.
3. The Supreme Court of the Philippines serves as the implementing agency for the project and now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of the Judiciary Data Center and ICT Network Infrastructure Development.
4. Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines that meet the following minimum qualification criteria:

   During the past four (4) years, the bidder must have completed two (2) successful contracts involving the development, installation, and provisions for technical support for information systems of similar functional/technical characteristics and comparable scale as the project under bid.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee for the Action Program for Judicial Reform (BAC-APJR) Secretariat, 6th Floor, Centennial Building, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila, tel. no. (632) 552-9584, telefax (632) 552-9586 and inspect the bidding documents from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Php 5,000.00 or in a convertible currency. The method of payment will be in cash or cashier's check. A pre-bid meeting which potential bidders may attend will be held on 17 April 2006 at 2:00 p.m in the Supreme Court Training Center, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila.
7. Bids must be delivered on or before 2 May 2006 at 2:00 p.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than Php 1,600,000.00 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the Supreme Court Training Center, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila at 2:01 p.m. on 2 May 2006.
8. The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder and (ii) that violations are considered fraud, which is, among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future World Bank-financed procurement.

(Sgd.) DCA. CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Deputy Court Administrator and
Chairman, BAC-APJR

(PDI - March 15, 2006)

Citrus farmers restive over mining project

From page A20

Agbiag Mining and Namnama were just used as dummies for the mining operation of a foreign company.

Complete documents

The INQUIRER tried to reach Tresmedo Tabrilla, Agbiag's mining engineer for comment, but he would not take calls made on his mobile phone.

But in a text message, Tabrilla says the company has a complete set of documents allowing them to operate the project.

Officials of the provincial small-scale mining and regulatory board (PSMRB) say Agbiag was granted a small-scale mining permit after it complied with all the requirements, including endorsement from local communities.

Vice Gov. Jose Gambito, PSMRB chair, says the operator's use of heavy equipment for ore extraction was "only to approximate the possible volume of reserve for the consideration of the financiers."

Gambito says it is difficult to judge at this stage of the operation whether the company has complied with its duty to provide mitigating measures for the project.

No entry

Under an agreement forged between Agbiag Mining and the PSMRB, the company is committed to "develop passable all-weather mining road network that will be needed by the other local users."

However, the same agreement also authorizes the company "to regulate the use of the road or prevent the use thereof by any individual, person, private corporation or entity."

Gambito, however, says the prohibition on the use of the provincial road was only for other rival corporations that may have interest in the magnetite ore.

Jerrysal Mangaoang, Cagayan Valley director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, said he, too, was "disillusioned" over recent developments concerning the project.

If the company will not fulfill the things that it promised to do, the project will not prosper and it will die a natural death, Mangaoang said.

But whether or not the project will continue, the fact remains that citrus trees have been felled and the land has already been rendered unsuitable for farming, MVMPCI officials say.

In a huddle, family members are outraged by Rafael's plight.

His nephew Felix, also a citrus farmer, says other villagers have committed themselves for any action they may take against the company.

Amid the discussions, Rafael was silent, looking confused.

Up the hill, his 6-year-old son, Lorenzo, clambers up the bulldozer, seemingly in awe but unaware of what the machine had done to his future.

Aurora closes info gap

By Tonette Orejas

NO MOUNTAINS LIKE THE overgrown Sierra Madre ranges are high and far enough to keep the power of information technology away from the reach of more than 13,000 farmers and fishermen in Baler, Aurora.

Fringed by a horseshoe-shaped valley and the coast of the Pacific Ocean, the capital town of Aurora, 270 km northeast of Metro Manila, is being equipped to become the country's first digital village.

"By May, we're ready to move in for that pioneering enterprise," Sen. Edgardo Angara, the project's Baler-born proponent, told the INQUIRER on Saturday.

This week, Angara said he would start the series of meetings with the other stakeholders: technology producers, like Smart Communications and Samsung, the Department of Transportation and Communications, the University of the Philippines' College of Engineering, and the Development Academy of the Philippines.

"What we're trying to do is continue to bring the expertise to and support for Aurora," he said.

Angara has pooled an initial capital of P20 million to jump-start the project.

The heart of the digital village is going to beat in the nipa palm-ringed Barangay Buhangin. The former submarine cable center of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. there, which covers five hectares, will house the facilities and the training center that will help farmers get the information they need to improve agricultural production and marketing.

How will the weather be like in the next five days? How much does a 50-kg sack of fertilizer or animal feed cost at current prices? What are the selling price of coconut, copra, coffee or *palay*, fish, shrimps, livestock in the market? To whom do we sell at best prices?

Easy reach

The answers, said Angara, would be within easy reach of rural folk through the Internet. The access seeks to close the information gap.

"Lack of information leads to low productivity," Angara, a former agriculture secretary, said. He said the project would hopefully protect agricultural producers from unscrupulous traders.

Since phone connections are direly limited, Smart is being tapped to set up VSST (very small satellite telephones). Samsung, on the other, could install the computers.

Helping agricultural producers master the new technology is, of course, another matter.

Angara is confident that they can adapt like their counterparts in India where digital villages are revolutionizing the sector.

"They can do it," he said, citing the experiences of farmers he encountered during a recent visit to Bangalore.

Angara said the project would pave the way for "genuine empowerment."

Many of them, he said, were illiterate and became rich by adopting modern technology. Brazilian farmers, he said, have also joined the digital highway.

Neglected

"Come to think of it, Baler has produced a Philippine president (Manuel L. Quezon) and despite my being a senator, the development of Aurora is being neglected," he said of his increasing involvement in the province.

"We need to catch up," he said.

The Angaras, reckoned as a political dynasty in Aurora, have helped put the infrastructures in place—roads, bridges, irrigation facilities, ice plants, schools and a state university.

But for a province still among the Top 20 poorest, there seems to be no end to the development work, the senator said.

In the current project, the challenge is how to make full use of limited agricultural lands where tenancy is largely the prevailing mode.

A total of 12,750 hectares are planted to *palay*, while 21,085 ha are grown to other crops mainly coconut. The rest, 73 percent of Aurora's 310,000 ha, are forest lands.

Republic of the Philippines
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IN PHOTO FROM LEFT TO RIGHT- MARIA CORAZON TAN MANGONDAYA, DIVISION HEAD-PRUDENTIAL LIFE; MR. BIENVENIDO S. POLICARPIO, EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT-MARKETING, PRUDENTIAL LIFE; AMBASSADOR FRANCISCO A. ALBA, CHAIRMAN-PRUDENTIAL LIFE, PRA CHAIRMAN, GEN. EDGAR B. AGLIPAY (RET), MR. IRENEO AQUINO, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT-MARKETING-PRUDENTIAL LIFE; MRS. ERLINA P. LOZADA, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, PRA.

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SCHEDULE OF PRODUCT PRESENTATIONS

Code	SEMINAR ROOM 1		Company Name
		March 16, 2006 (Thursday)	
A1	12:00nn - 12:45pm	Basic Hydraulic System & Seal Materials	Economos Phils. Inc
A2	2:00pm - 2:45pm	Lower Your Operating Cost Thru Good Filtration Maintenance	Donaldson Filtration
A3	4:00pm - 4:45pm	Understanding Close- Loop Hydraulic System	Morse Hydraulic
		March 17, 2006 (Friday)	
B1	12:00nn - 1:45pm	ADDMIX- Ang Sekreto ng Mahusay na Kongkreto	ADDMIX-Bostix
B2	2:00pm - 2:45pm	An Exciting Journey Thru Total Solutions (Construction and Mining)	Atlas Copco
B3	3:00pm - 3:45pm	Custom Design Products for Oil & Gas Application	Atlas Copco
B4	4:00pm - 4:45pm	Safety in the Mining Industry	CIGI
		March 18, 2006 (Saturday)	
C1	12:00nn - 12:45pm	Geotechnical Solutions for the Mining Industry	Phil. Gabions Inc.
C2	2:00pm - 2:45pm	Wire Rope Basic	Wire Rope
	SEMINAR ROOM 2	March 16, 2006 (Thursday)	
D1	1:00pm - 1:45pm	The Name for Material Handling	Mhe- Demag (P) Inc.
D2	2:00pm - 2:45pm	Sizing: Its Role in Mineral Production	MMD Mineral Sizing (Europe) Limited
D3	3:00pm - 3:45pm	Shotcrete Technology	Elasto Plastics
D4	5:00pm - 5:45pm	Business Risks	Business Profiles
		March 17, 2006 (Friday)	
E1	1:00pm - 1:45pm	Introduction to Volvo EC700B Hydraulic Excavation	Civic Merchandising Inc.
E2	2:00pm - 2:45pm	New Product Presentation for Heavy Lift	Crosby Group Inc. with Benedicto Steel
E3	3:00pm - 3:45pm	INGAL Company & Product Presentation	Industrial Galvanizers Corp. of the Phils.
E4	4:00pm - 4:45pm	Introduction to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's)	Top Rigid Safety Supply Inc.
E5	5:00pm - 5:45pm	Using Belt Cleaning System in Belt Conveyors	Beta Equipment
		March 18, 2006 (Saturday)	
F1	1:00pm - 1:45pm	Varian Atomic Spectroscopy	Molave Trading
F2	3:00pm - 3:45pm	Bisazza Endless Possibilities	Bisazza Phils.

ASIA MINING CONFERENCE
SEMINAR ROOM 3 March 18, 2006 (Saturday) 12:00nn - 4:00pm
TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED AND PRESENTED
- Update on SNAP and other activities PMSEA to help in mining and nation building
- Update and status of 24 mining projects
- The state of Philippine Mining
- Role of Mining in Local Communities
- Nonmetals: Cement companies and ISO14001
- Grassroots acceptance of mining in host communities
- Mining as a profession and calling
- Opportunities in mining for Local & International contractors
- New Filtration Technology for the Mining Industry
- Opportunities for Contractors in Mining: The Philex Experience

CONSTRUCTION TECHNICAL SEMINARS
SEMINAR ROOM 3 March 16, 2006 (Thursday)
TOPIC A: 2:00pm - 4:00pm Impact of R-VAT on the Construction Industry *by Atty. Vic Mamalateo (PCA Tax Consultant)*
March 17, 2006 (Friday)
TOPIC B: 1:30pm - 3:30pm National Building Code & Its Impact on the Construction Industry *(by Arch. Manuel Cantupay)*
TOPIC C: 4:00pm - 6:00pm A Symposium in PCA Rules and Regulation by *Ramon Allado (PCA Board Member)*
* All seat allocations are on a "first come, first serve basis" Attendees with payments will be given priority *

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Co-Organized By: Philippine Constructors Association; Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association; Chamber of Mines of the Philippines
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Senate may probe switching of election materials in House

By TJ Burgonio, Philip C. Tubeza and Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. RODOLFO BIAZON IS OPEN to expanding his committee's inquiry into the "Hello Garci" tape scandal to include the alleged switching of election materials at the House of Representatives in early 2005.

"Remember my inquiry is on two things. One is the wiretapping; the other one is the cheating," Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense, said yesterday.

The committee dealt with the national security aspect of the "Hello Garci" scandal, which was triggered by taped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano that purportedly showed that they conspired to rig the 2004 presidential election. Ms Arroyo has denied stealing the election.

House security officers

Biazon said he would inquire into the alleged switching of election returns if the group of House security officers who had videotaped the incident would execute an affidavit, signify their willingness to testify and present evidence.

"I will have to examine their affidavit, their material before I decide whether or not to invite them in," he said.

The senator said he could also subpoena the compact disc (CD) showing footage of the switching and play this in "formal proceedings" after the security officers had presented this to the public.

The police officers said six House civilian employees stole election returns from 38 provinces and replaced them with fake and tampered ones during a break-in at the South Wing of the Batasan complex between January and February 2005.

The ballot boxes were kept at the complex before they were turned over to the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) early last year.

'Garci' a closed book

But Malacañang slammed the door on calls to revisit the "Hello Garci" controversy, claiming that Ms Arroyo's victory in the 2004 elections was a "closed book."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the opposition's new witnesses in the electoral fraud would only "sing the same tune."

"While the opposition keeps resurrecting the issue of the Garci tapes, we prefer to move on and proceed with the actual work of governance," Bunye said.

Biazon said his committee would resume its hearings once Executive Order No. 464, which bars administration, police and military officials from appearing in congressional hearings without the President's consent, was lifted.

Several military officials had skipped the hearings, invoking EO 464.

Biazon, who opened the inquiry into the "Hello Garci" scandal last September, said he set the conditions when two people approached him two weeks ago and offered to submit a CD on the alleged switching to his committee.

"There are two things you can do," the senator recalled telling the individuals. "No. 1 option, show it to the public. If you do that and I evaluate what you're going to show, I might subpoena it for presentation in a proper proceeding of the Senate," he said.

"However, if you're going to give me your affidavit and you're willing to come in and testify in the hearings, [I might call you in] but I want to see first the affidavit," he said.

Biazon said he never heard from the two people again.

Lacson on CD

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson called on "authors" of the CD showing the alleged theft of election returns to come forward and identify those behind the crime.

Lacson said the CD was shown to him sometime in August last year but the person who offered it to him failed to produce anyone who could annotate the footage.

"When I viewed the same, I thought the CD didn't have its probative value without supporting annotation and/or authentication," Lacson said.

"The footage was not even visually clear (for anyone) to figure out what that particular activity was all about. I asked for the person or persons involved in the taping to annotate (it) but they didn't come forward," he said.

Lacson said he got worried because the one who offered the CD to him had hinted of some financial consideration. He said he watched the CD after a man brought a copy to his office last August. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan and Cynthia D. Balana*

Tribal mayor shows democracy at work in conflict resolution

From page A1

Inc. (Rafi) as an exemplary individual in the Visayas and Mindanao.

He was cited for his efforts to put Upi on the path to peace and prosperity, and for proving that the term "public servant" was not an oxymoron.

The foundation recognizes exemplary individuals and outstanding institutions every three years. Piang is only the third individual to receive the award.

Crafting a vision

By Piang's account, one of the first things he did as mayor in 2001 was to assemble local government officials and representatives of all sectors in Upi—from Church leaders to Muslim imams to Teduray elders—to craft their vision and plans to improve the public welfare.

The leaders of the various groups could not ignore the invitation of the highest Upi official even if some of them could not stand being in the same room as the others.

But more than that, one unifying force made them take part in the meeting: The desire for prosperity for their town.

The plan that emerged from the discussions became the legislative agenda of Piang's administration.

"I thought that if everybody agreed to the plan, the people will work to achieve it because the suggestions came from them," the mayor told the INQUIRER.

But he imp[illegible]sed on his constituents that [illegible]y could not have the longed-fo[illegible]rity without peace.

"I asked them, 'What do we want for our society for the next three years?'" he recalled. "If we want economic development, then we should first work on peace. Without it, progress will not come quickly."

Mayor's council

Piang provided the environment for fostering peace and settling differences by forming a mayor's council composed of two respected leaders from each of the Muslim, Teduray and Christian groups.

He convenes the council to settle conflicts between or within the major ethnic groups, using their own ways.

According to Piang, Upi's traditional justice system has helped resolve conflict quickly, preventing it from escalating into a full-blown war. It has helped as well to cut the number of cases filed with the police by 35 percent.

And because it is the elders themselves who pass judgment, the people follow, and the promises made are more binding than legal contracts.

Said Piang: "We use traditional ways. The Teduray, for example, seal their commitment to never commit the same offense again by drinking water with pieces of the fingernails of each party."

The unique conflict resolution system earned for Upi a Galing Pook Award in 2004.

As it was with conflict between individuals, so it was with wars between groups.

Piang said that because the various groups were forced to work together in the council, they got to know each other better.

Each came away from the meetings with a better idea of how the other thought and worked, and what the other held dear.

Where they're coming from

"I guess it helps that I know where people are coming from. We come from a poor family, so I know what they are going through," Piang said.

The mayor has the added advantage of having earned the community's respect long before he entered politics.

The eldest of five children born to a poor Teduray couple, Piang looked to education as his escape from poverty.

At 13, he left home to study at the Notre Dame Diocesan Seminary, initially thinking of entering the priesthood. But he realized that being a man of the cloth was not for him, and he became a teacher instead.

Piang taught at the Notre Dame Elementary School and quickly rose through the ranks because of creative teaching methods that brought out the best in his students.

He was eventually appointed principal of the Notre Dame of Upi High School, where he honed his skills working with all kinds of people regardless of religion, ethnicity and social status.

He applied the same perseverance to social work involving the Church, the academe and the community.

Transparent governance

Entering politics became the logical next step for Piang.

He first ran as an independent candidate for vice mayor—and won by a landslide. After three terms, the town urged him to run for mayor—and he readily won in 2001.

In his first year in office, national and municipal roads were improved and transportation to and from Upi became available. Public structures and government systems were computerized and networked.

These days, local businessmen and employees even convince each other to pay their taxes on time because they can easily see on a big board in the municipal hall where the money—as well as the donations for the needy—is going.

Listing all the projects, the costs and the construction schedules for everybody to see also keeps him in line and minimizes the temptation to be corrupt, Piang said.

The public also helps keep governance transparent by directing complaints and suggestions to Piang through his daily radio show.

Plans and programs

By next year, Piang and his constituents are expected to be working together to improve education for children, implement shelter programs and take up solid waste management.

Plans are underway to put up a business center for livelihood training and economic services—necessities in Upi where six of 10 residents live below the poverty line.

Discussions with groups to put up a rubber plantation and to introduce potato growing have begun.

For all that, Piang said he continued to be surprised that he and his town had gained recognition from such agencies as the Canadian International Development Agency and Rafi, and that the private sector was extending financial help.

"I realize now that maybe we really are doing something good to deserve all this," he said.

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors with current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License to apply for eligibility and to bid and if later found eligible, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title	Proposed Rehabilitation of Tuesday Manor Condominium
Scope of Work	Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed Rehabilitation of Tuesday Manor Condominium, a BSP acquired asset all in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract
Project Location	Brgy. Poblacion, Mandaluyong City
Approved Budget	One Million Five Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Pesos (P1,589,990.00)
Source of Funding	BSP Corporate Funds
Contract Duration	Sixty (60) calendar days
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)	
PCAB License	Registration Particulars of at least "Small B" (Building & Industrial Plant)
Contractor's Construction Experience	Should have completed within the last five (5) years (2001 to present) at least one (1) project involving construction / renovation of commercial offices or residential buildings costing not less than seven hundred ninety five thousand pesos (P795,000.00) In case of a joint venture, submission of a valid joint venture agreement including the special PCAB license is required. The joint venture must have previously completed at least two (2) similar construction projects involving similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project
Certification of Satisfactory Performance	Should be able to submit certificates of satisfactory performance from the client of the declared completed similar projects. For those contractors who have previously done / completed BSP project/s, the certificate/s of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank for said project/s must be submitted
Net Financial Contracting Capacity or	At least One Million Five Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Pesos (P1,589,990.00) computed as 10 x (current asset less current liabilities) minus (value of all on going contracts including awarded yet to be started)
Credit Line or Cash Deposit Certificate	At least One Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (P160,000.00)
Letter of Intent (LOI)	
Deadline of Submission	: March 31, 2006 / 2:00 PM
Eligibility Statement Forms	
Cost of Forms	: Five Hundred Pesos per set (P500.00/set)
Date of Issuance	: March 13 to 27, 2006 / 9:00 AM to 12NN
Deadline of Submission and Opening	: March 31, 2006 / 10:00 AM
Notice of Eligibility / Ineligibility	
Date of Issuance	: April 13, 2006 / 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Bid / Tender Documents Issuance	: Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)
Date of Issuance	: April 13 to 14, 2006 / 9:00 AM to 12:00 NN
Pre-Bid Conference	
Date and Time	: April 21, 2006 / 10:00 AM
Venue	: MR2A Conference Rm., 2nd Floor, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St., Manila
Submission and Opening of Bids	
Deadline of Submission	: May 16, 2006 / 2:00 PM

For inquiries, please call BAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143

The venue for the issuance and submission of Letter of Intent, accomplished eligibility statements and bid documents is at the BAC Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St. Manila

The schedule of bid activities from the issuance of notice of eligibility/ineligibility up to the deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern relative to the bidding and award of contract including its implementation.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - March 15 & 24, 2006)

Linggoy Alcuaz out on bail

LINGGOY ALCUAZ, A FORMER CAMPAIGNer for the late actor and presidential contender Fernando Poe Jr., was freed on bail yesterday after he spent a night in a Quezon City jail on a malversation charge he branded as political harassment.

Alcuaz, secretary general of the FPJ Volunteers Brigade, was freed at about 1 p.m. on a release order issued by Judge Lita Tolentino-Genilo of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 91, who earlier issued the arrest warrant against him.

It was not immediately clear, however, who posted the P40,000 bail for Alcuaz, who had said earlier he would rather stay in jail than use his own money for bail.

A court employee who refused to be identified said a man he knew to be Alcuaz's son, but whom he could not name, and a certain Atty. Laurete posted the bond at 10:30 a.m. Alcuaz denied in a telephone interview his son had posted bail. He said he was told it was a "Manang Glo" who put up the bond.

Alcuaz was arrested on Monday on a year-old malversation case when he was still director of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The case stemmed from a van assigned to him by PCSO which Alcuaz allegedly refused to return after he left the agency.

Alcuaz said there was no malversation since he had not used the vehicle, which had been damaged in December 2003, and that he had returned it more than a year ago.

Meanwhile, Manoling Morato, a former PCSO director and general manager, advised Alcuaz yesterday to stop crying political harassment over a case that was filed even before he returned the van. Morato said that returning the vehicle extinguished the administrative case but not the criminal charge.

Morato asked Alcuaz to "attend to his other problem with the PCSO" – P800,000 in allegedly unliquidated cash advances which Alcuaz claimed to have liquidated already.

"I don't think reminding him about his obligation is political harassment," Morato said. *DJ Yap, Jerry Esplanada*

Reject terrorism, GMA urges religious leaders

By Christine O. Avendaño

MACTAN, CEBU CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo yesterday urged religious leaders and officials from the Asia-Pacific region to reject terrorism and communism and build tolerance to bridge differences.

Ms Arroyo addressed 200 delegates from 15 countries at the opening of a regional interfaith dialogue for peace and development in Cebu City, which was attended by New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark.

"We must never accept terrorist violence cloaked in religion by anyone at anytime," the President said in her speech.

Terrorism, she said, was murder and that "no religion can abide by the faith of the faithless who kill and maim in the name of God."

"Neither should we allow an ideology that scoffs at religion as the opium of the people to be the reason to overthrow any government," Ms Arroyo said referring to communism.

The President had earlier vowed to crush the country's 36-year-old communist insurgency. She accused communist rebels of plotting with opposition and adventurist military officers to bring down the government and on Feb. 24 imposed a week-long state of emergency to quash the alleged coup.

Ms Arroyo also expressed confidence that peace in Mindanao "is within our grasp" based on the progress of the peace talks.

"The Philippines is a nation that faces the test of individual faith and social tolerance every day. And I am happy to report to you as previous speakers have already alluded that today the historic divide between our Christian and Muslim neighbors is narrowing dramatically," she said.

Ms Arroyo underscored the importance of faith saying that her faith gave her "strength and wisdom to reach out and find common ground even with those who do not share my beliefs."

"Faith is the great antidote to terrorism. Faith is the great antidote to godless ideologies," she said. "We must turn up the flame of faith and understanding as we help lower the sword of poverty and destruction."

Ms Arroyo said that regrettably, the "story of faith has too often been twisted and has become a source of despair, and destruction sometimes, amongst peoples and nations."

"Our challenge in promoting interfaith dialogue is to redeem the true meaning of faith if we are to truly bring peace and prosperity in the world," she said. *With reports from Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau, AP and AFP*

Clark urges healing of religious rift

MACTAN, CEBU CITY — NEW ZEALAND Prime Minister Helen Clark called on news media yesterday to mend religious divisions in the wake of a global Muslim uproar over the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad in Europe.

Clark, on a four-day visit to the Philippines, endorsed interfaith dialogue as a useful tool for governments and religious leaders to promote tolerance and reject extremism.

"When issues of such fundamental importance as the cohesion of our societies and international community are at stake, it would surely be disappointing if most media did not wish to be part of overcoming tensions between us rather than contributing to further division," she said in a speech.

She added that the media should be engaged in a "public conversation about interfaith dialogues and the issues which are at stake" because of the important role they play in promoting understanding.

Clark addressed about 200 delegates from 15 Asia-Pacific countries at the start of a three-day interfaith meeting in Cebu. *Reuters*

Soprano Dalisay Aldaba dies; 93

By Pablo A. Tariman, Contributor

DALISAY ALDABA, THE FIRST Filipina to sing the role of Cio Cio San in Puccini's Madama Butterfly at the New York City Opera in the late 1940s, passed away quietly on Monday night. She was 93.

Aldaba, who founded the Opera Guild of the Philippines, was a sister of Estafania Aldaba Lim, the former social welfare secretary who died just two weeks ago.

Born in Hagonoy, Bulacan on Sept. 9, 1912, Aldaba finished a degree in voice at the University of the Philippines. She won a scholarship to the University of Michigan where she obtained a master's degree in music, literature and voice.

Aldaba belonged to a select roster of Filipino Cio Cio Sans who shone in Puccini's opera in foreign shores.

The country's first great Cio Cio Sans were Isang Tapales and Jovita Fuentes, who debuted in Italy in the 1920s and 1930s.

Aldaba inherited the part in the 1940s with a much-acclaimed debut at the New York City Opera.

American critic Irving Kolodin reviewed the performance: "The City Center closed its opera season with a warming debut of Dalisay Aldaba. So far as could be discovered, Miss Aldaba has no record of public performance other than at the University of Michigan where she was a student. However, she moved through the role of Butterfly with remarkable ease, a real sense of character portrayal and sympathetic projection of the music. Her voice is not large, but it has clarity and warmth, also a decidedly emotional impact."

That New York triumph led to more performances in other American cities and on to Europe—to Nice, Marseilles and Lyon in France, and to Oviedo in Spain.

In an interview with this writer recently, Maestra Aldaba remembered the Puccini heroine she helped immortalize. She said her favorite parts were the duets with Sharpless and the suicide aria.

"There is nothing like the thrill of hearing that kind of applause. To me, that applause and the standing ovations are a culmination of a dream," she said of her triumph in New York and Europe.

In the 1950s, Aldaba sang with Luciano Pavarotti's teacher, Arrigo Pola, who had taught in Manila and Tokyo.

Informed during a visit here in 1994 that his favorite teacher was a good friend of Aldaba's, Pavarotti personally called on Aldaba in her Legazpi Towers apartment. The two reminisced about Pola.

A Requiem Mass will be said at 9 a.m. today at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park for the country's last great Madama Butterfly after which she will be interred in the family crypt in Malolos, Bulacan.

Landmine kills 3 soldiers

BUTUAN CITY—THREE SOLdiers, including a lieutenant, were killed while five others were wounded on Sunday when a landmine planted by communist rebels exploded in San Luis, Agusan del Sur, the military said Tuesday.

In another incident, a policeman was killed when New People's Army (NPA) rebels raided a police outpost in Baganga, Davao Oriental, also on Sunday.

Lt. Col. Amador Tabuga, commander of the Army's 29th Infantry Battalion, said his men were patrolling a forested area in Barangay Dimasalang when one of them stepped on a landmine around 4 a.m. on Sunday.

Tabuga identified those killed as 2Lt. Onex Aducol, Pfc. Hector Adan and Pfc. Abdul Abduraha.

Lt. Col. Francisco Simbajon, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said other soldiers engaged the rebels in a firefight.

He said an undetermined number of rebels were hit in the ensuing battle.

But Maria Malaya, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in Mindanao-Northeastern Mindanao Area, said none of the rebels were injured.

She said the incident was part of the NPA's renewed offensive to force President Macapagal-Arroyo out of office.

"We will continue with our attacks, until Arroyo steps down," Malaya said.

Tabuga said the NPA has again proven its ruthlessness because of its continued use of landmines.

"This is a clear violation again. They are using landmines," Simbajon agreed.

Malaya said the landmine used in San Luis was the command-detonated type, which is not banned under international conventions. *Franklin M. Caliguid and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Human Resource and Administrative Department

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE SALE OF VARIOUS SERVICE VEHICLES

The Securities and Exchange Commission, through its Disposal Committee invites qualified bidders/buyers to bid for VARIOUS OLD/USED SERVICE VEHICLES on an "as-is-where-is" basis, as follows:

ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION	QTY UNIT	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	Nissan Cefiro, 1997 Model A 32-4 Door Sedan	1	P232,300.00
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3.	Toyota Corolla XE (HI) 1.3, 4-Door Sedan	2	P121,000.00/unit
4.	Toyota FX 1.5, 4 Cyl	1 1	P70,714.29 P84,385.71
5.	Mitsubishi L-300 Van	1	P73,846.15
6.	Honda Motorcycle, TMS 125	3 1	P8,437.50/unit P4,687.50

The said vehicles may be inspected during office hours, Monday to Friday at the SEC Parking Lot behind the SEC Building, Florida Street, Greenhills East Subdivision, San Juan City.

Bidding documents may be obtained at the General Services Division, Human Resource and Administrative Department 4th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting March 12 to 21, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. For further details, please contact Assistant Director Romeo O. Dauag at Tel. No. 727-3320.

Pre-Bid Conference will be on March 22, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the CRMD Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SEC Building.

Deadline for submission of bids shall be on March 28, 2006, 10:00 A.M. at the General Services Division, 4th Floor, SEC Bldg. and immediately thereafter bids will be opened at the CRMD Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SEC Building.

The Securities and Exchange Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formalities therein and to award the Sale to a bidder whose proposal as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

The SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnity any bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made at all.

March 10, 2006.

(Sgd.) BENITO A. CATARAN
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(PDI – March 12 & 15, 2006)

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Nora Aunor to enroll in new drug program

LOS ANGELES — NORA AUNOR, ONE of the Philippines' most popular film and music stars, has left Los Angeles county's drug court treatment program and will enroll in a different program that allows her to travel for concerts, officials said.

"The woman was in full compliance" during her time in drug court, said Aunor's attorney, Claire Espina. "She tested clean every time."

Aunor, 53, was arrested March 30 at Los Angeles International Airport after security screeners allegedly found 8 grams of methamphetamine and a glass pipe in her carry-on bag.

She was accepted into the county's drug court program in December, at which time criminal proceedings against her were suspended.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Bernard Kamins on Thursday granted a motion by Aunor's attorney to let her leave drug court. He scheduled a March 29 hearing before another judge so she can enter a drug diversion program.

Criminal charges against Aunor will be dismissed if she successfully completes that program, according to the district attorney's office.

Aunor, whose real name is Nora Cabaltera Villamayor, has upcoming concerts in San Francisco, Boston, Washington, D.C. and Ohio, and also must travel to meet the requirements of her visa, Espina said. Aunor has spent much of her time in recent years at her home in Linda Vista. *AP*

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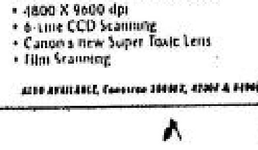

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Pacquiao ducks low, denies ex-lover's charges

JOANNA Rose Bacosa and her son whom she claims was fathered by boxing champ Manny Pacquiao. RAFFY LERMA

By DJ Yap

MANNY PACQUIAO CAME—A DAY AHEAD.

Yesterday, the face-to-face courtroom meeting between Pacquiao and his former lover and alleged son did not push through as the boxing idol was a no-show at the office of the Quezon City assistant prosecutor.

Pacquiao appeared before Assistant City Prosecutor Ma. Gracia Casaclang on Monday to attest to the authenticity of his counter-affidavit, even though the schedule for its submission was yesterday, according to his lawyer Jose Crisostomo. Only Crisostomo attended yesterday's hearing to submit the document. Joanna Rose Bacosa had charged the boxer with violating the law protecting women and children from violence.

"He is unavailable today because he has a prior commitment," said Crisostomo, adding that Pacquiao's engagement was a "contractual commitment." Sources told the INQUIRER that Pacquiao was scheduled to start shooting a commercial for Magnolia, part of his multimillion endorsement deal with San Miguel Corporation.

Asked if Pacquiao was purposely avoiding Bacosa, Crisostomo said: "We're not avoiding her, but it's not necessary for Pacquiao to appear (at this point)."

In his affidavit, Pacquiao declined to comment on his alleged romantic relationship with Bacosa. He neither confirmed nor denied that he was the father of her child.

But he rejected Bacosa's charges that he had refused to support the child. "In the first place, I don't know who is the real father of her son. It was Bacosa herself who told me she had another boyfriend. In the second place, if I were the father of the child, according to Bacosa's own affidavit, I have already provided the boy with enough financial support from the time of Bacosa's pregnancy to the boy's growing up, an amount that is even more than his needs," Pacquiao added in his affidavit. He also denied he had threatened Bacosa that he would kidnap the boy if she took the matter to the courts or the media.

Bacosa, who came with her son to the QC assistant prosecutor's office, tearfully challenged Pacquiao to "be a man," and face her.

Immigration can't find illegal lenders; borrowers cite easy terms

By Leila B. Salaverria and Margaux Ortiz

First of two parts

SPECIAL REPORT
Project Editor
Recah Trinidad

THEY OPERATE ILLEGALLY. THEY prey on the hapless poor that endlessly cry out for a little cash, please.

Foreign money-lenders, dusky intruders with distinct Indian features, are out in city streets seven days a week to lord it over small-scale Filipino vendors, mainly the citizens of the sidewalk that form the core of the underground economy. They charge usurious rates, and have been violating established trade rules, as confirmed by authorities.

They have become part of the national landscape. Their number continues to multiply, mainly in the metropolis, but authorities don't seem to care.

Said reader Shakespeare Chan, who operates a mechanical toys store at the Megamall, upon reading the teaser on the INQUIRER series on Money-lending Invaders: "Very happy to read about the forthcoming INQUIRER report on Bombay 5/6. Many Pinoys have gone bankrupt because of these blood-sucking 5/6 operators.

IMMIGRATION/ A26

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Eusebio sets up law and order unit

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AFTER BEING STRIPPED BY THE National Police Commission of his police powers, Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio is creating his own law enforcement unit.

The City Council has passed an ordinance creating the Batas ng Ciudad Enforcement Office (BCEO) which will augment the local police and barangay security forces in enforcing all city ordinances. "This is my way of further helping the local police," Eusebio said. The mayor was stripped by the Napolcom of his police powers after he ordered, without first coordinating with the Philippine National Police, the demolition of a compound of shabu dens on Feb. 15.

Eusebio added, "Policemen are supposed to enforce our local ordinances. But they could not focus on these ordinances because they are outnumbered. We will help them by creating this new enforcement group."

Members of the BCEO will have the power to arrest violators of city ordinances against illegal squatting, smoking, littering, gambling, public drinking, electricity theft and even against illegal drugs. However, unlike policemen, they will be unarmed. They will also report directly to the Office of the Mayor.

The law enforcement unit will have a section chief and an assistant section chief. There will also be an adjudication section to investigate complaints against erring members as well as an administrative department to maintain the records of the members.

Eusebio told the INQUIRER that screening for the members of the enforcement group was already ongoing and the ranks would be completed "within this month."

The city council has appropriated more than P41 million for the salaries and benefits of the BCEO. Eusebio said the members of the group will have their own uniforms and will be deployed in the 21 police precincts in the city.

Immigration can't find illegal lenders . . .

From page A25

Shouldn't the government look into this?"

Well, the government should, even if it would require only a little effort. All for the simple fact that foreigners, including Indian nationals, are not allowed to engage in the so-called "5-6" lending business.

Violation

Reason: It is a violation of the the country's Retail Trade Liberalization Act, according to the Bureau of Immigration (BI).

BI Executive Director Roy Almoro said the law prohibits aliens from engaging in small scale businesses as these are reserved for Filipinos.

"They're not supposed to do that. That could be a ground for deportation because that's a violation of the law," Almoro said yesterday, referring to the proliferating "5-6" lending business wherein Indian nationals lend money to Filipinos, but charge high interest rates.

Difficult

But why were they not lifting a finger to contain the anomaly?

Almoro said the bureau has difficulty catching Indian nationals who engage in the lending business, saying the foreigners have learned to hide such acts. "It's hard to detect because they do it discreetly," he said.

That's a ludicrous claim. An INQUIRER team did not have to dig hard in order to find these illegal money-lenders. These foreigners, some of them riding motorbikes in tandem, openly collect payments from vendors with the mean poise of licensed collectors.

Almoro said citizens could report such activities to the BI, "after which immigration operatives would verify the information." Once confirmed, the bureau would arrest the foreigner, he added.

Requirements

It's later than the immigration bureau thinks. Almoro said most of the Indian nationals who live in the country have married Filipino women and have temporary residence visas. Aliens who want to engage in business must follow the requirements of the Retail Trade Liberalization Act, he added.

Under this law, foreigners may fully own enterprises that specialize in high-end or luxury products as long as its capital amounts to $250,000 per store.

But other enterprises, where the paid-up capital is less than $2.5 million, are reserved exclusively for Filipinos. If business' capital is equal to or more than $2.5, it may be wholly owned by foreigners.

Almoro said the law is supposed to protect Filipino entrepreneurs from unfair foreign competition. Hence, the putting up of *sari-sari* (variety) stores and other small scale businesses are the exclusive privilege of our countrymen.

Work visa

If foreigners want to work in companies based in the Philippines, they could apply for a working visa, the BI head said.

One Indian businessman, who asked not to be named, said he has been in the "5-6" money-lending scheme for more than a decade now "because of the easy flow of money. Actually, the uneducated ones in our family only know this kind of business," the businessman said in straight Filipino, adding that their educated relatives sell appliances or join the computer industry.

Starting over

The businessman said he came to the country years ago and looked for an area in Metro Manila where he could start his business. "After I told my family back home that I had found a site, they sent me money from jewelry sales to start my business," the trader said. When his business started to flourish, the trader sent for his children who later studied computer courses and sold appliances.

Julio Sabate, 27, said he was forced to borrow money from an Indian businessman when he came to Manila from Cebu province six years ago. "Nobody wanted to lend me money because I was new in the neighborhood," he said.

No qualms

Sabate said he went to the Indian businessman and borrowed P5,000. "He just told me if I could pay him back with interest and lent me the money without qualms," he said, adding that the loan was promptly slapped a 20 percent interest per week.

The number of Indian nationals registered with the BI as of 2005 was placed at 20,050, according to the Immigration Regulation Division. Last year, 28,884 Indians visited the Philippines, while 27,642 left the country.

India's Ministry of External Affairs website estimates the Indian community in the Philippines at 70,000, with 3,000 having acquired Philippine citizenship.

Tomorrow: Part 2: No way out; "the last best hope"

METROBRIEFS

A mecca in Maharlika Village

UY! OK 'YAN!
YEHEY!

A "WORLD class" plaza will soon rise in the midst of a small village in Lower Bicutan, Taguig City. The local government has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Urban Asset Reform Project Management Office on the construction of the Maharlika Trade Center in Maharlika Village. The two-story Muslim plaza is expected to become a mecca of Muslim culture and art in Metro Manila as it will showcase products from Mindanao and Muslim and Arab countries such as textiles, crafts, spices and other novelty items. It will also have restaurants serving halal meals or food that come from animals that were slaughtered in accordance with Islamic rites. "We will build a model Muslim community as we revitalize Maharlika, turn it into a trade and tourism center and bring back its old glory," Mayor Freddie Tinga said in a statement yesterday. ***Jocelyn R. Uy***

'Spies' in a bright red van

IS MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay, one of the administration's most vocal critics, under surveillance? Binay thinks so. In a statement issued yesterday, the mayor said that for the past few days, a bright red Toyota Innova van without license plates has been stationed outside his house, which has also been noticed by his neighbors. "Efficient and effective surveillance work is done under extreme cover, and not within sight of people. To do so in the latter way is an attempt to instill fear. That underhanded tactic will most certainly not work on members of the principled opposition," said Binay who heads the United Opposition. He said that the policemen aboard the van have been "taking videos of people entering and leaving" his residence. Adding that he will not be cowed, he told PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao in a letter that the "cost of a brand new Toyota Innova, which many would rightfully consider a dispensable 'luxury' for surveillance work, could have been easily saved. I am sure that your purchase of that vehicle will raise not a few eyebrows among our taxpayers." ***Tarra V. Quismundo***

NBP head strikes back

By Jocelyn R. Uy

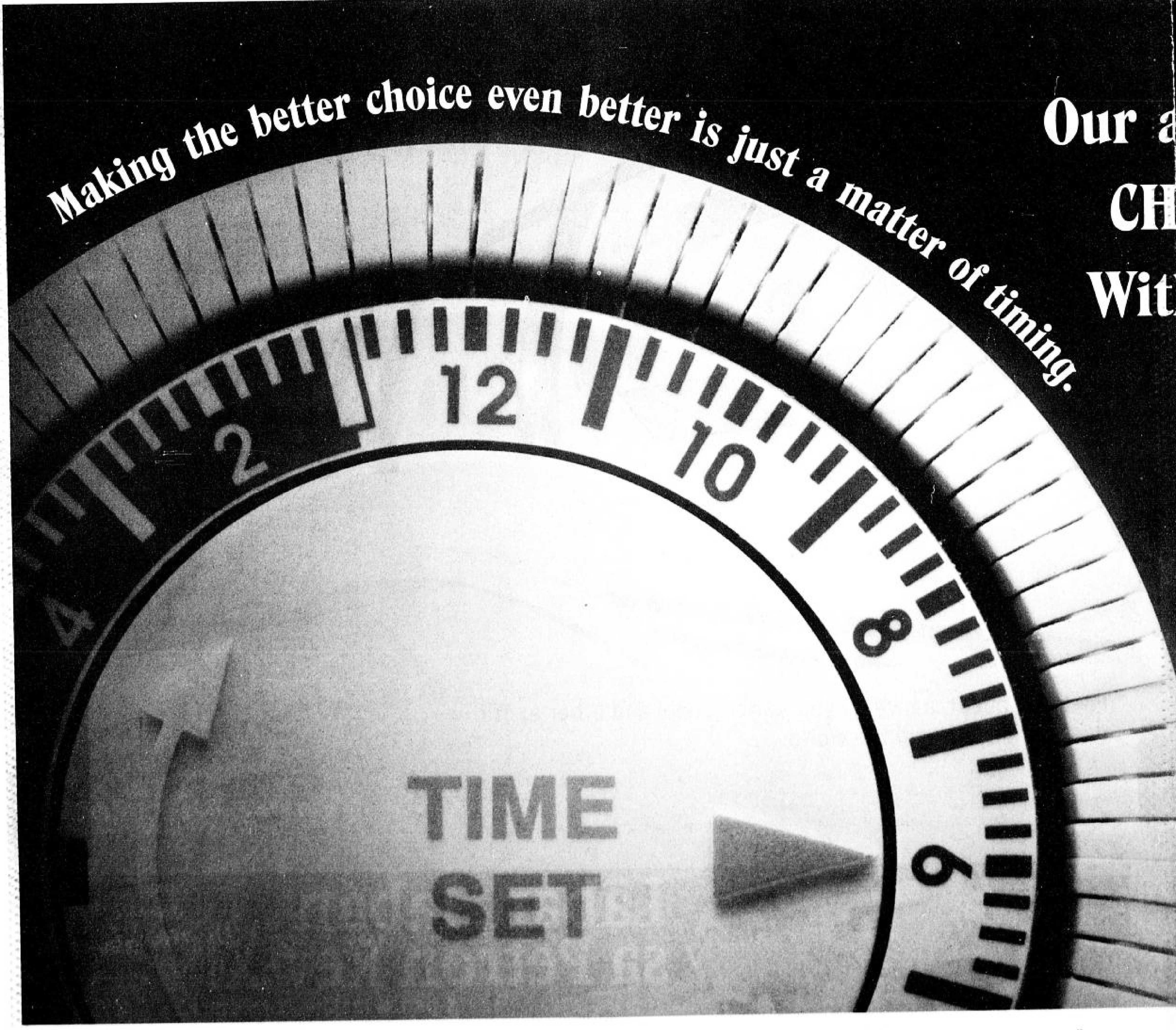
NEW BILIBID PRISONS (NBP) Director Vicente Vinarao yesterday criticized the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) for demanding that he resign over his alleged failure to prevent violent incidents inside the prison compound.

In his letter to the INQUIRER, Vinarao said that the recent stabbing incidents in the NBP involving two murder convicts were "mere isolated incidents."

He was referring to the stabbing of Claudio Teehankee Jr. and Airman First Class Cordova G. Estelo. Teehankee, who was stabbed on March 4 by an irate inmate, survived but Estelo did not.

Vinarao stressed that he has implemented stringent security measures to prevent violence in the NBP compound like the installation of closed-circuit TV cameras at the gates of the maximum compound. A special operations group, he added, has been created to conduct surprise inspections among inmates and seize contraband items like improvised deadly weapons, cellular phones, ammunition and illegal drugs. The NBP has also been offering inmates opportunities for education and livelihood to help them develop their skills and earn money for their family, Vinarao said in his letter.

He added that all these measures are being carried out despite congestion in the jail facility and the "massive shortage" of prison guards, with a ratio of one guard for every 28 inmates.


Making the better choice even better is just a matter of timing.
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SANDY CHRIST
Two girls stand by a sand sculpture of Jesus on the beach on South Padre Island, Texas. AP

Bush links Iran to deadly roadside bombings in Iraq

Bombs traced to Iran's Revolutionary Guard

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush, stepping up a war of words with Iran, accused it of contributing to ever-deadlier roadside bombs used against US-led forces and civilians in Iraq.

"Tehran has been responsible for at least some of the increasing lethality of anti-coalition attacks by providing Shia militia with the capability to build improvised explosive devices in Iraq," the US president said on Monday.

Bush said that support for terrorism and international suspicions that the Islamic republic seeks nuclear weapons were "increasingly isolating" Tehran and promised "America will continue to rally the world to confront these threats."

Asked about the linkage to Shiite forces, two US officials who declined to be named pointed to previously reported ties between the government of Iran and radical Iraqi Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr.

Bush's charge came as he launched a public relations campaign to revive support for the war he launched three years ago, with polls showing the US public sour on his handling of the conflict and seeking a quick US withdrawal.

Some 2,300 US troops have been killed, thousands more wounded or maimed, and the conflict has cost hundreds of billions of dollars.

Even some of the most prominent conservative backers of the March 2003 invasion have questioned whether the United States can achieve victory amid deepening fears that sectarian violence in Iraq will flare up into civil war.

"I wish I could tell you that the violence is waning and that the road ahead will be smooth. It will not," he said. "We will see more images of chaos and carnage in the days and months to come." At the same time, as he has in the past, Bush rejected calls to set a timetable for bringing home the roughly 130,000 US troops in Iraq and pleaded for patience from the skeptical US public.

"We will not lose our nerve," said the president. "The battle lines in Iraq are clearly drawn for the world to see, and there is no middle ground. The enemy will emerge from Iraq one of two ways: Emboldened or defeated." Bush also declared that the United States has a strategy for dealing with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) like roadside bombs, a weapon of choice for the insurgents targeting US and Iraqi forces.

US military intelligence sources have said that increasingly powerful IEDs, with greater armor-piercing power and sophisticated triggers, have been traced to Iran's Revolutionary Guard, or to Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed militia in Lebanon.

Bush said that there was evidence that some components in the most powerful IEDs came from Iran, and that coalition forces had "seized IEDs and components that were clearly produced in Iran." Last week, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld directly accused the Islamic government in Tehran for the first time of sending Iranian Revolutionary Guard into Iraq to make trouble.

AFP

Drug reduces plaque buildup in arteries

ATLANTA—A CHOLESTEROL-LOWERING statin drug has for the first time been shown to reverse the build-up of plaque in coronary arteries, which can lead to a heart attack or stroke, researchers said on Monday.

A study of more than 500 patients found that after two years of treatment with a high dose of AstraZeneca Plc's Crestor, plaque volume was reduced by 7 percent to 9 percent.

The drug also lowered levels of LDL, or "bad," cholesterol by more than 53 percent to 60.8 and raised levels of HDL, or "good," cholesterol by nearly 15 percent to an average of 49. Crestor is considered to be one of the most powerful statin drugs, but it has been dogged by concerns about potential side effects such as muscle damage.

The changes in cholesterol levels seen in the latest study were the largest ever seen in a major trial of statin drugs, said researchers, who presented the results at a meeting of the American College of Cardiology in Atlanta.

The US Food and Drug Administration last year threw out a petition by consumer group Public Citizen to have Crestor banned.

"The results were shockingly positive," said Dr. Steve Nissen, interim director of the department of cardiovascular medicine at the Cleveland Clinic and the study's lead author.

He said the trial did not answer the question of whether less plaque means fewer heart attacks and strokes.

Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Actress Stapleton dies at 80

LOS ANGELES—Oscar and Tony winning actress Maureen Stapleton, famed for feisty, down-to-earth stage roles in Tennessee Williams and Neil Simon plays and for such films as "Reds" and "Cocoon," died on Monday at age 80. She died of natural causes at her home in Lenox, Massachusetts, said Ned Roche, the head of the Roche Funeral Home there. Stapleton, whose career in later life was hampered by a fear of bridges, airplanes and elevators, made her last film appearance in the 1997 romantic comedy "Addicted to Love." Her performance as anarchist Emma Goldman in Warren Beatty's 1981 film "Reds" earned her an Academy Award as best supporting actress.

Reuters

Disgraced Korean scientist expelled

SEOUL—Disgraced South Korean cloning expert Hwang Woo-Suk has been struck off the roster of an exclusive academic society here for misconduct, the society said Tuesday. The Korean Society for Molecular and Cellular Biology said Hwang's fraudulent research had damaged its reputation. "The board of directors convened on Feb. 27 and reached the following decisions... to take disciplinary measures, starting with members who have clearly committed research misconduct," it said in a statement. It said the disciplinary measures were being taken in accordance with the society's constitutional provision concerning "the expelling of members."

AFP

3 die of bird flu in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW—Three people have died of bird flu in Azerbaijian, according to tests using World Health Organization (WHO) equipment, the Azeri health ministry was quoted as saying by the Russian Itar-Tass news agency on Tuesday. The highly pathogenic H5N1 flu strain was identified in the victims late Monday using equipment sent to Azerbaijian by the WHO, health ministry spokesperson Samaya Mamedova said, according to Itar-Tass. The three victims, who died in recent weeks, were all residents of the Salyan region of southern Azerbaijan. The deaths were the first human deaths from the disease in the country.

AFP

S. Korean PM offers to quit over golf scandal

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREAN PRIME MINISTER Lee Hae-chan offered on Tuesday to resign for playing golf with business executives while a national railway strike was causing transport chaos, the presidential office said.

Several newspapers and politicians have called on Lee to quit for failing to attend to the strike and instead playing golf with a group that included a businessman convicted of financial crimes and another under investigation for price fixing.

In South Korea's political system, executive power is vested with the president. But President Roh Moo-hyun, who campaigned on a pledge to share power, had given considerable authority to the prime minister.

"The prime minister expressed his apologies once again for causing trouble with careless conduct and expressed his intent to resign," the presidential Blue House said in a statement after Lee's meeting with Roh.

Roh, who returned on Tuesday from a three-nation tour of Africa, will consider whether to accept the resignation, the Blue House said.

"If the president accepts the resignation, which is very likely, it will be a serious blow to his policy agenda," said independent political analyst Yu Chang-sun. "Roh will be hard pressed to find a person of Lee's caliber." Lee, a five-term legislator and prime minister since June 2004, was largely responsible for the daily running of domestic policy and was considered one of the most powerful premiers in the country's history.

He oversaw the administration's efforts to boost the regional economy, reverse a sharply declining birth rate and reform a national pension plan that analysts said may not be financially sustainable.

Lee has cancelled his appearances for the next few days, including a meeting with business leaders on Wednesday and another with the ruling party on creating jobs, an official at the prime minister's office said by telephone.

Lee's offer to resign comes at a time when Roh is battling the lowest support ratings for his administration since it took power in 2003.

Reuters

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Thaksin threatens to do a GMA to quell unrest

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S PRIME MINISTER vowed Tuesday to declare an emergency if anti-government protesters in the capital turned violent, as tens of thousands massed near his office demanding he resign over corruption allegations.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was in northeastern Thailand on a campaign stop as the protesters marched on his office at Government House in Bangkok, pledging to continue peaceful protests until he steps down.

"I am ready to sign the decree if the situation becomes violent," Thaksin told reporters before entering a Cabinet meeting via teleconference from the city of Ubon. He said a decree declaring a state of emergency was "in his hands" but that it was not necessary to use it at the moment.

The marchers made their way from Bangkok's Grand Palace down a broad boulevard toward Government House, a couple of kilometers away, carrying placards reading "Change Through Peace" and "No Violence."

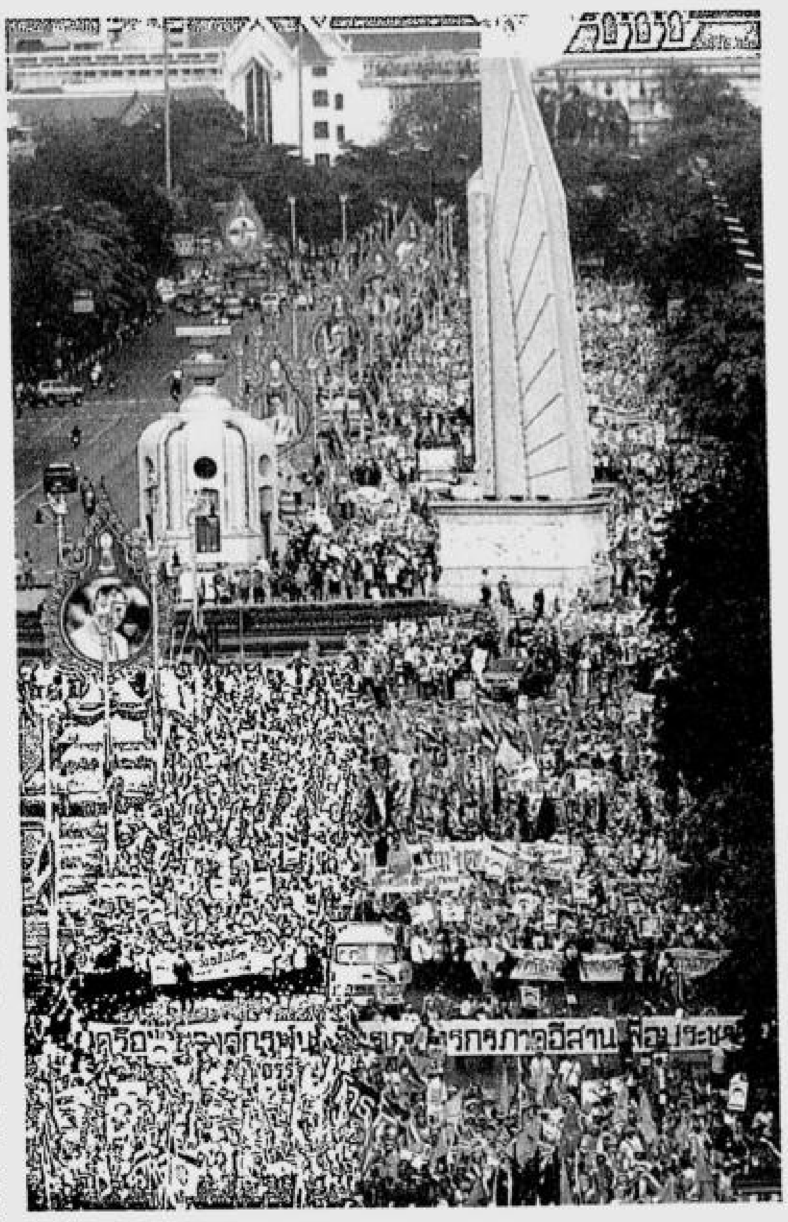
"Thaksin, Get Out!" they shouted, some of them tearing down pro-government banners near the compound.

Cabinet members meeting inside the ornate seat of government approved a 5 percent pay hike for employees of state enterprises, some of whom have joined the anti-Thaksin drive.

"I'm one of the 19 million people who voted for the wrong person. I have to correct what I did wrong," said Ratanaporn Rattanawongsarot, a 39-year-old housewife among the marchers. "I can't stand Thaksin cheating the country."

The crowd appeared to number about 100,000, according to an Associated Press reporter, but an accurate estimate was difficult. Metropolitan police spokesperson Col. Pinit Maneerat gave the number as 30,000 to 40,000, while organizers said more than 200,000 were taking part.

Tens of thousands of protesters have demanded Thaksin's resignation in regular weekend rallies, accusing the tycoon-turned-politician of corruption, mishandling a Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, stifling the media and allowing cronies to reap gains from state policies. *AP*



TENS of thousands of demonstrators take to the streets of Bangkok on Tuesday, March 14. AP

Milosevic took wrong drugs, tests show

THE HAGUE—A TOP TOXICOLOGIST IN the Netherlands said that he believed Slobodan Milosevic, the former Yugoslav leader, was manipulating medication to fake a medical condition, a plan that might have played a role in the heart attack that caused his death.

That theory was advanced by Dr. Donald Uges, professor of clinical and forensic toxicology at the University of Groningen, who posited that Milosevic was seeking to demonstrate that Dutch doctors could not cure him and that he should therefore be allowed to seek treatment, and freedom, in Moscow. He was imprisoned here on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity including genocide during three Balkan wars in the 1990s.

Uges based his theory on his detection in Milosevic's blood of a drug that had not been prescribed for him and that was not only inappropriate but, under the circumstances, dangerous. He was found on his bed in his prison cell on Saturday morning.

The drug at issue is an antibiotic known as rifampicin, used to treat serious bacterial infections, such as tuberculosis. It is known to interfere with medications he was taking for high blood pressure.

An international team of doctors, including Dutch, Belgian, and Serbian forensic specialists, attended an autopsy on Sunday and said in a preliminary report that Milosevic had died of a heart attack. Their toxicology tests will be due in the coming days. *New York Times News Service*

Icy 'super-Earth' found around faraway star

WASHINGTON—A COLD, heavy "super-Earth" has been found orbiting a distant star, using a method that holds promise for detecting faraway planets that closely resemble our own, astronomers said on Monday.

The planet weighs 13 times as much as Earth and is orbiting a star about 9,000 light-years away. But instead of circling close to its star, as Earth does, this "super-Earth" is about as distant from its star as Jupiter and Saturn are from the Sun.

An international team of scientists figured the new planet probably has a temperature of minus 201 C, making it one of the coldest planets detected outside our solar system.

The discovery is billed as a super-Earth because it is thought to be a rocky, terrestrial planet like Earth, even though it is much more massive.

The planet was detected by astronomers using a project called OGLE—short for Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment—which looks for changes in light coming from distant stars.

If another star passes between the faraway star and a telescope on Earth, the gravity of the intervening star acts like a lens and magnifies the incoming light.

When a planet is orbiting the closer star, the planet's gravity can add its own distinctive signature to the light.

This phenomenon is known as gravitational microlensing, and it has the potential to detect less massive planets than other methods of searching for planets around other stars.

The OGLE project detected the microlensing event in April; 36 astronomers working with OGLE found the signs of a planet, 9,000 light-years away in the direction of the Milky Way's central galactic bulge.

A light-year is about 10 trillion km, the distance light travels in a year.

Andrew Gould, an Ohio State University professor who heads the planet-hunting group MicroFUN—short for Microlensing Follow-Up Network—said this discovery has two implications. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office V
ANST Bldg. III, Alternate Road, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

BIDDING FOR SECURITY SERVICES
ITB# PROV-2006-02

Agency must be duly licensed and a member of good standing of the Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Association Operators (PADPAO), Inc.; With certification from DOLE that the agency has no records of violation of existing labor laws; With certification from SSS, Pag-Ibig and PhilHealth of the regular remittance on employer and employees' contribution.

The **PhilHealth Regional Office V**, through the **2006 Corporate Operating Budget**, intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Sixty-Three Thousand Forty pesos (P2,063,040.00)**, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Security Service.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The **PRO V** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Security Service, with Security Agency certified by the Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Association Operators (PADPAO), Inc.; With certification from DOLE that the agency has no records of violation of existing labor laws; With certification from SSS, Pag-Ibig and PhilHealth of the regular remittance on employer and employees' contribution.** Delivery of the GOODS is required **within May 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder of the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **PRO V** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 am – 5:00 pm.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00) from March 28 – April 10, 2006.** The method of payment will be in a **form of cash or check payable to PRO V.** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The **PRO V** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **April 11, 2006, (2:00 PM – PRO V Conference Room).**

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below **on or before April 24, 2006, 2:00 PM.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of the following or an amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

FORM OF SECURITY	MINIMUM AMOUNT IN % OF APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT TO BE BID
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft, or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1 %)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2 %)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2 %)
4. Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100 %)

Bid opening shall be on **April 24, 2006, 2:00 PM** at **PRO V Conference Room.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The **PRO V** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Orlando D. Iñigo, Jr. – Assistant Vice-President
PhilHealth Regional Office V
ANST Bldg. III, Alternate Road, Legazpi City
Telefax: 481-5597
e-mail add. admin.pro5@philhealth.gov.ph
website: www.philhealth.gov.ph

(Sgd.) IRENEO A. DACILLO
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–March 15 & 21, 2006)

NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRANTS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 12 (A) OF DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO 15 SERIES OF 1990, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY THROUGH THE BUREAU OF TRADE REGULATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, CANCELS FROM THE RECORD ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATIONS WHICH EXPIRED AS OF **SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2006.**

UNDER THE BUSINESS NAME LAW (ACT NO. 3883), AS AMENDED, OWNERS OR PROPRIETORS SHOULD RENEW THEIR BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATION UPON EXPIRATION THEREOF.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SERVES AS A FORMAL NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE.

15 March 2006, Makati City

(Sgd.) **VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA**
Director, BTRCP

(PDI - March 15, 2006)

PROVINCE OF CEBU
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-GOODS AND SERVICES
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO BID

ON THE SALE OF SERVICEABLE AND UNSERVICEABLE LIGHT AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Goods and Services, invites all interested parties, who wish to participate in the public auction on the sale of its serviceable and unserviceable LIGHT AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT as follows:

Description	No. of Units	TOTAL Appraised Value
I. OPERATIONAL		
1. Dump Truck	40	28,460,649.80
2. Fuel Truck	2	1,697,698.10
3. Stake Truck	1	175,000.00
4. Dozer	6	14,124,586.60
5. Excavator	4	7,756,693.30
6. Loader	8	12,997,694.40
7. Grader	6	16,526,956.60
8. Vibratory Roller	6	7,500,000.00
II. WITH MINOR DEFECTS		
1. Dump Truck	1	822,560.10
2. Prime Mover	1	300,000.00
3. Grader	1	490,000.00
III. WITH MAJOR DEFECTS		
1. Dump Truck	1	300,000.00
2. Stake Truck	1	103,307.50
3. Dozer	8	7,445,982.70
4. Loader	3	1,736,510.10
5. Grader	2	2,175,000.00
6. Roller	1	1,000,000.00
IV. UNSERVICEABLE		
1. Dump Truck	8	512,422.30
2. Dozer	3	2,794,593.40
3. Loader	2	317,791.50
4. Grader	1	193,303.50
5. Roller	2	209,453.00
V. JUNK		
1. Dump Trucks (Est. weight: 12,000 kgs.)	3	108,000.00
2. Graders (Est. weight: 18,000 kgs.)	2	220,000.00
3. Dozers (Est. weight: 22,000 kgs.)	2	227,000.00
4. Rollers (Est. weight: 27,800 kgs.)	6	344,000.00
5. Crane (Est. weight: 25,000 kgs.)	1	225,000.00

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Properties shall be sold on an "AS IS WHERE IS" basis and made to the highest complying bidder, provided the offer is not less than the appraised value.
2. Interested parties are reminded to inspect said properties to determine their actual condition from March 17 until March 31, 2006 (Contract Person: Engr. Alfredo Cabillada at Tel. No. 416-5400)
3. BID FORMS will be available to the prospective bidders upon presentation of the official letter of intent and payment of a non-refundable bidder's fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) only to the Cash Receipts Division, Office of the Provincial Treasurer. Bid forms will be issued upon presentation of the proof of payment (original copy of OR) at the BAC-GS Secretariat, 2nd floor, Provincial Capitol Building, Cebu City during office hours from March 15 to April 5, 2006. (Contact person: Ms. Flora Anato at tel. no. 253-9614).
4. A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on March 30, 2006, 2:00 P.M. at the BAC conference room, 2nd floor, Provincial Capitol Bldg., Cebu City.
5. Every bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security, either in CASH, Cashier's/Manager's Check or GSIS bond in the amount equivalent to at least TEN PERCENT (10%) of the total bid. Failure to enclose the required bid security in the form and amount prescribed shall automatically disqualify the bid.
6. Sealed proposals shall be received at the BAC-GS Secretariat starting 1:00 P.M and not later than 2:00 P.M. on April 6, 2006. Immediately thereafter, said proposals shall be opened in the presence of the attending bidders.
7. The Province of Cebu reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to formally waive and accept BIDS considered complying, responsive and most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ROY G. SALUBRE**
Chairman, BAC-GS

(PDI—March 15, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
REGION XIII (CARAGA)
Bancasi, Butuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION OF DIVERSION WORKS
OF MARIHATAG-MARARAG COMMUNAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM
Marihatag, Surigao del Sur
Loan [Credit] No. PH-P203

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation toward the cost of Marihatag-Mararag Communal Irrigation System, Marihatag, Surigao del Sur, and it intends to apply part of the whole proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, the payments under the contract for the construction of diversion works under Local Minor Contract No. RO-SDS-LMC-001.

The National Irrigation Administration-Region XIII (Caraga) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Construction of an Ogee-Type Diversion Works Completion of the works is required within 250 Calendar Days (250 CD)

Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation procurement procedures and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans."

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility Documents from the BAC Secretariat at the NIA-Region XIII (Caraga), Bancasi, Butuan City, starting **March 18, 2006 to April 7, 2006** They shall submit the accomplished Eligibility Documents on or before **5:00 P.M.** on **April 18, 2006**.

Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from NIA-Region XIII (Caraga) and inspect the Bidding Documents from 8.00 A.M. to 5 00 P.M Monday to Friday starting **April 9, 2006**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos only (P5,000 00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his duly authorized representative from **April 9, 2006 to May 7, 2006**

The NIA-Region XIII (Caraga) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **April 26, 2006, 1:00 P.M.** at the NIA-Regional Office, Bancasi, Butuan City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bid on or before **May 8, 2006, 2:00 P.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cashier's/manager's check, in the amount of One Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Thirty Three Pesos and 69/100 (P135,033 69) Bid Opening shall be on **May 8, 2006, 2:00 P.M.** at NIA-Regional Office, Bancasi, Butuan City Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend

The National Irrigation Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd) **RAFAEL A. ALAS, JR.**
BAC Chairman

Approved:

(Sgd) **DEMOCRATICO P. GRANA, JR., CESO V**
Regional Manager

(PDI–March 9 & 15, 2006)

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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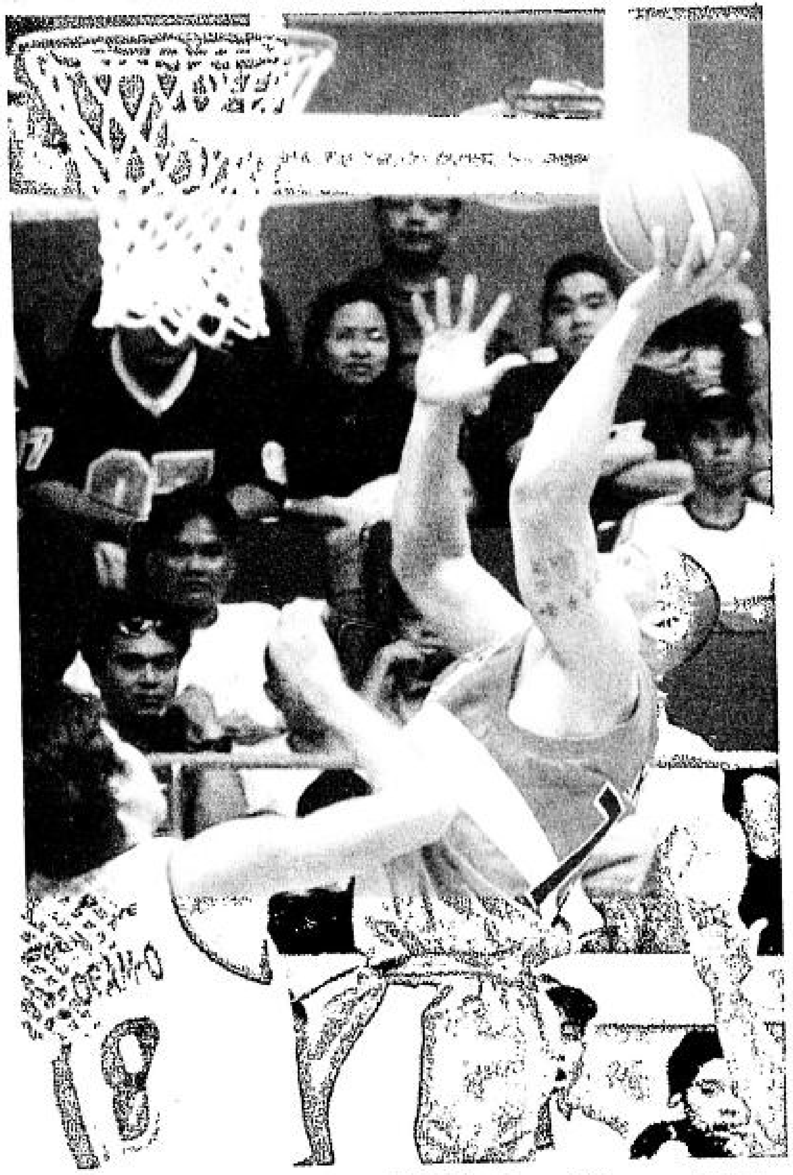


COCA-COLA'S Ali Peek drives off Air21's Yancy de Ocampo during the Tigers' first romp last week. RYAN LIM

In-form Tigers stake clean slate vs Giants

COCA-COLA STAKES ITS IMMACULATE SLATE against Purefoods Chunkee, even as Red Bull and Alaska try to recover from a previous spill in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Tigers have picked up a pair of easy wins over the Air21 Express (104-83) and the Alaska Aces (81-69) to share the lead with the Barangay Ginebra Kings in the all-Filipino tournament.

And Ali Peek has racked up a phenomenal start, clinching Player of the Week honors and conspiring with John Arigo to lead the Tigers to those two blowouts—a refreshing change of pace for a team that finished dead last in the last two conferences.

Peek bettered his all-time best 11-of-11 shooting with a 12-of-12 clip in a 27-point performance against the Aces, who shipped him and Arigo to the Tigers in the 2004-2005 season.

"They're a different team right now," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio. "They're cohesive and they have strong post-up players. But the challenge for us is to be quicker this time around."

The Giants cut the towering Sta. Lucia Realtors down to size, 104-88, in their first game behind a breakneck pace.

"Two wins at the start of the conference don't mean anything. It's how we build on these victories that matters," said Coca-Cola coach Binky Favis.

In the other game, the Bulls are raring to redeem themselves after allowing San Miguel Beer to escape with a 101-93 win despite the Beermen's season-high 33 turnovers.

Unable to flaunt the form that allowed them to clinch the Fiesta Conference trophy, the Bulls trailed by 17 twice and were unable to put up a decent stand off the boards against the Beermen. *June Navarro*

Sison hooks up with Granny Goose

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT SEEMS THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF JOB offers for former Montaña coach Robert Sison.

And of all the offers that landed on his lap, Sison picked the one tendered by Granny Goose, making him an assistant coach for the Tortillos in the PBL Unity Cup, which fires off on March 25.

"With his experience, Robert will be a big help to the team," said team manager Pat Aquino of Sison, who steered Montaña to its first ever title in 2005. "He has long been in the business, so his intensity and passion will surely help us accomplish our goal this time."

SISON: He's back

Sison's hiring was just one of the moves the Cebu-based squad has undertaken to prop up its championship bid this coming conference.

Granny Goose earlier tapped its former coach, Jun Tan, to take over the reins from Joe Lipa, who reportedly quit so he can focus on the University of the Philippines' UAAP campaign.

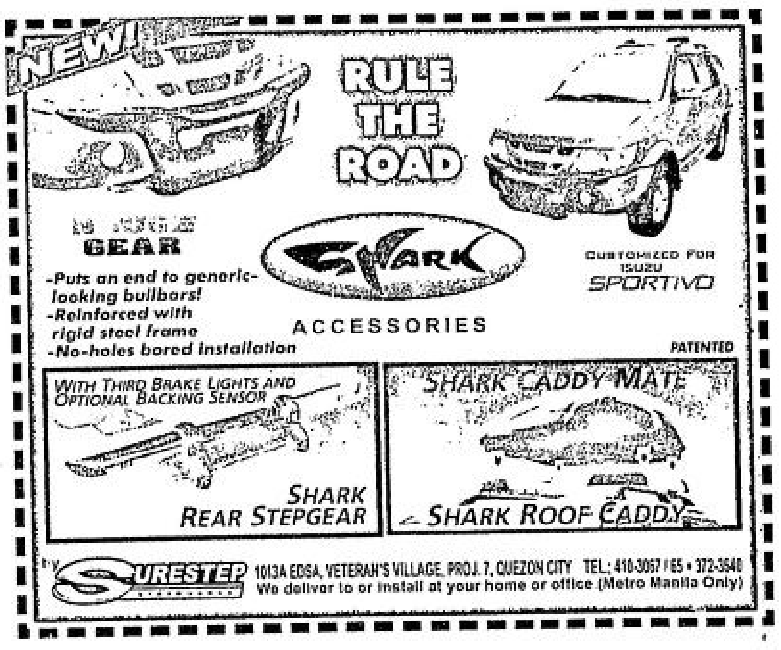
The Tortillos also beefed up their roster with young recruits led by 2005 NCAA Rookie of the Year Kelvin dela Peña, Mark Ababon, Paul Chua and Lloyd Ortigueza.

Lipa called the shots for the Tortillos last November after Tan decided to quit to attend to his businesses in Cebu.

Under Tan, Granny Goose was a perennial semifinalist since its league debut in 2004. Lipa led the Tortillos to a third-place finish in the recent Heroes Cup.

Sison resigned from Montaña last week after a disagreement with team management regarding a trade involving veteran Alex Compton.

Montaña later clarified that it suspended Sison even before he decided to quit.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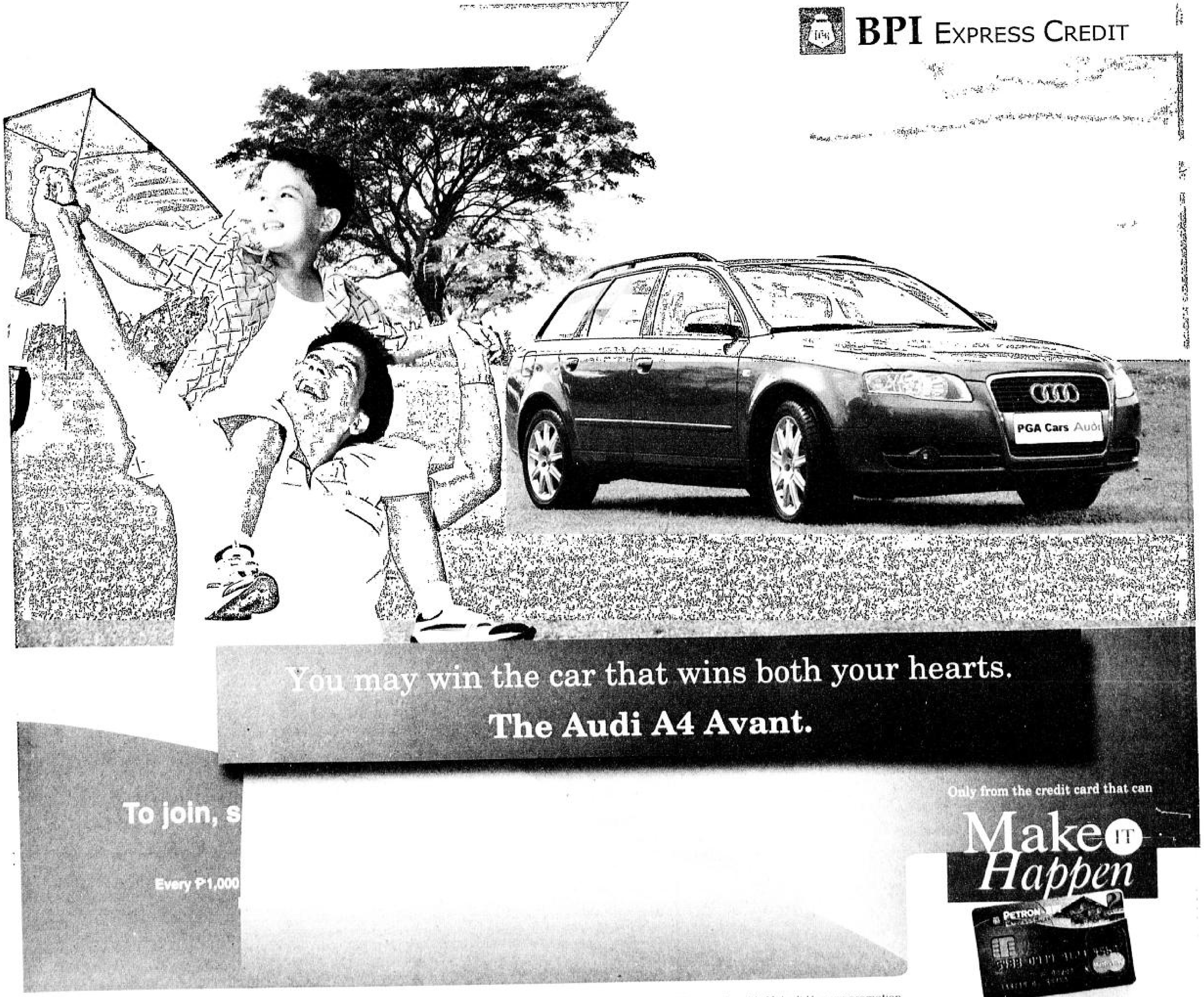
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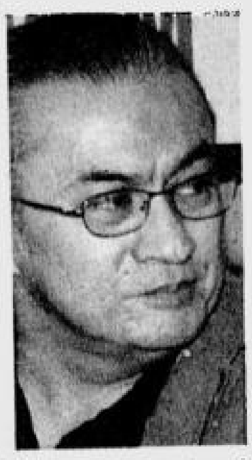
Keon plans to reclaim post as RP sports czar



KEON: Disappointed

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FORT ILOCANDIA, LAOAG CITY—DISAPPOINTED over the depth Philippine sports has sunk into after reaching unprecedented heights in last December's 23rd Southeast Asian Games, Michael Keon yesterday bared plans to get back his position as the country's sports czar.

Keon didn't specify in what capacity he plans to return to jobs that earned him praise more than 20 years ago. He variously held the posts of track and field head, Philippine Sports Commission chair and Philippine Olympic Committee president.

"I might," said the 50-year-old Keon over brunch with sportswriters at this famed golf and country club. "And it may not be just as the track and field association president."

Keon, an Ilocos Norte provincial board member in charge of sports and tourism, said that if he decides to make good his return, "it should be something more substantial" than the role he played in the last SEAG.

Keon served as national training director during the Games won for the first time since 1977 by the Philippines. He was a popular choice for the job, having served as chief of the defunct sports agency Project: Gintong Alay in the 1980s.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, who helped raise P160 million for the training of Filipino SEAG campaigners, is known to be Keon's top backer.

"If I'm to divide my time between my work here and RP sports, it has to be something more substantial," said Keon, who didn't hide his dismay over developments in sports right after the SEAG.

"*Sayang ang* momentum," he said. "How come we hear of all these problems: The PSC is getting under the DOH (Department of Health), Congress is giving them a smaller budget and the First Gentleman is withdrawing his support?"

It was under the Australia-educated Keon's watch at the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association that the careers of track legends Lydia de Vega-Mercado, Elma Muros-Posadas and Isidro del Prado blossomed in the 1980s.

Asked if he plans to get back his post from long-time athletics chief Go Teng Kok, Keon said: "Let's just wait and see."

Bayron out front in Caddies Open

By Musong R. Castillo

CALATAGAN, BATANGAS—RUFINO Bayron left home last year, leaving friends and family in Davao to chase dreams of a better life.

Yesterday, the 24-year-old Bayron took one step closer to that dream after firing a level-par 72 and taking a four-stroke lead at the start of the second National Caddies Open.

Bayron turned in an eagle-aided 36-36, with that 3 on the 498-yard par-5 13th cushioning bogeys on two of his last four holes.

Fellow Calatagan bets Mark Fernando and Jessie Balasabas carded 76s like Apo entries Paul Echavez and Zannie Boy Gialon for joint second, even as 26 other players failed to crack 90 and were eliminated.

Echavez actually made a lot of noise after going two-under in his first nine holes. But the 17-year-old Apo eliminations topnotcher bogeyed the 10th and got completely undone with a fat 7 on No. 13.

He would go on to drop two more shots on the 15th after finding the fairway bunker and settle for a bogey on the 17th after missing the green.

Ronel Cornejo of Villamor shot a 78 (41-37) to lead a four-man pack in sixth spot, six off the pace. Also in the group were Rodel Revilleza of Lanang (40-38), Joleo Torrecampo of Marapara (39-39) and Davao Golf's Luisito de Asis.

Sharing 10th with 79s were Jeff Tumbaga of Camp Evangelista (38-41), Gerry Sales of Villamor (40-39), Lanang's Jomie Espora (41-38), Noli Pook of Saranggani (41-38), Peninsula Golf's Louie Manday (41-38) and Veteran Golf Club's Angelo Anzures (41-38).

The survivors play the second round at Calatagan again today before the field is further cut to half plus ties for the third 18 holes at wind-swept Canlubang North.

Wack Wack East, the revered home of many a Philippine Open, will be the site of the final round on Friday.

RUFINO Bayron lines his putt on hole No. 14 yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

The youngest brother of RP Team standout and former caddies champion Jay Bayron, Rufino left Apo Golf to carry bags at Calatagan here to be able to fully prepare himself for this tournament supported by Pagcor, San Miguel Corp. and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Bayron, who finished seventh here last year, nursed a two-under card after 14 holes but missed the 15th and 17th greens for bogeys.

He birdied Nos. 3 and 4, dropped shots on the 5th and the 9th, before hitting a wonderful 6-iron second shot from just over 200 yards on the 13th, leaving himself two feet for a gimme eagle.

"I want to follow in the footsteps of my brother," Rufino said in Filipino. "I want to remain involved in the game, live off it. But not as a caddy anymore."

Like last year, the top three placers of this event will be taken into the long-term NCO program, one that will house, feed, train and fund them for at least the remainder of the year. Program head Tommy Manotoc said the goal is to produce a talent that will be worthy of a spot in future RP teams.

ANJO'S TEAM, TOO: National Basketball Conference (NBC) president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (second from right) and actor-TV host and Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana shake hands after finalizing the tie-up of Spring Cooking Oil and Parañaque for the ongoing NBC tournament. Others in picture are team manager Dan Noveno (left) and coach Efren "Yong" Garcia. Spring-Parañaque beat Bacchus/Harbour Centre in its first match.

Criterium racing goes to Pampanga

CRITERIUM RACING GOES TO PAMPANGA THIS WEEKEND WHEN THE third leg of the Philamlife Cycling Search Invitational (CSI) Criterium Race is fired off at the Bayanihan Park, formerly Astro Park, in Angeles City on Saturday. A banner field is expected to vie for top honors in various divisions, including the centerpiece men's elite and under-23 class. It features those who have been part of the RP team, the national pool or have competed in major events here and abroad. Keen competition is seen in the 30-lap race with Tarlac kickoff leg winner Albert Primero, Oscar Rindole, winner of the second stage in Marikina, and fancied Victor Espiritu locked in a three-way battle for supremacy. Primero shows the way with 33 points with Rindole and Espiritu not too far behind with 28 and 26 points, respectively, heading into the third leg of the event organized by Treo Sales and Management Corp.

JVC Open registration ends today

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2006 JVC OPEN JUNIORS CHAMPIONSHIPS ends today with the qualifiers slated March 21-24 at PowerSmash. The listing is free, according to the organizing IMG. For details, contact 894-2995, 892-9866, 725-2568 or txt 0917-8050702 (Tonette), 0917-805-0601 (Carol) or 0917-532-8970 (Nelson); log on to www.jvcbadminton.com or email at jvcbadminton@hotmail.com. Entry forms can also be downloaded from the event's website and can be sent through fax at 894-2995 and 892-9866. Last year's champions Jan Banquiles and Malvinne Ann Venice Alcala are fancied to lead the cast in the third staging of the event sponsored by JVC (Phils.) Inc. The tournament proper starts March 25-26 at SM Megamall. Prizes, ranging from JVC gift items to L-Time Studio watches to Pioneer personal and educational plans, will be up for grabs.

Jaguar-Land Rover golf tees off at Elena

JAGUAR AND LAND ROVER OWNERS TEE OFF today at the Sta. Elena course in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, for the 7th Jaguar/Land Rover Golf Invitational. The exclusive event, the only tournament of its kind in the country that runs for three days, is expected to draw some of the most prominent personalities in Philippine society.

The tournament is sponsored by long-time Jaguar/Land Rover partners Petron Corp., Air France KLM (the official carrier of the Philippine team), Exo Armoring Co. Inc., MOL Phils., Lucerne Jewelers, Amanpulo Resorts, El Nido Resorts, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Ideal Vision (Jaguar Eyewear), Coca-Cola Phils. Qualifying round will be held today and tomorrow.

A brand new Jaguar X Type 2L V6 is up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize.

The top five scorers on each day will qualify to the championship round on Friday. The team winner will represent the Philippines in the 23rd Annual Jaguar World Golf Finals on June 11-16 in Gleneagles, Scotland, where they will compete against champion teams from Jaguar dealerships around the world.

'A Big Assist for Bert and Butch' at Merck's

PROMINENT SPORTS PERSONALITIES PARTICULARLY from the world of local basketball will take the stage alongside friends from the entertainment industry starting at 7 p.m. on Monday night at the Merck's Bar and Bistro in Greenbelt 3, Makati, for a very special event, "A Big Assist for Bert and Butch." Bert and Butch refer to Bert Cuevas, long-time sportswriter and sports editor, and Butch Maniego, a former sportswriter-turned-sportscaster who now works with the Philippine Basketball League. Both are afflicted with diabetes, with Bert already having undergone one major operation. Butch undergoes dialysis thrice a week in preparation for a kidney transplant. Organizing the affair are sports media stalwarts Ed Picson and Beth Celis, along with singer extraordinaire Richard Merck, a sports lover who initially planned the benefit concert at his venue to help the two ailing journalists.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on March 29, 2006 at 10.00 a.m., Suite 4, 12th Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS.

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION	Minimum Bid
REAL ESTATE				
METRO MANILA				
CWB-42	Residential-Commercial lot (TCT No. 264424) w/ bldg	443.1	Along M.V. de los Santos St. (near University of Manila) Sampaloc, Manila	P 26,106,300.00
AM-JA-014	Industrial lot (TCT No. 165600) w/ warehouse bldg.	2,000	Bo. San Dionisio, Parañaque City	P 13,170,000.00
AM-JA-015	2-adjoining residential lots (TCT No. T-261538) w/ bldg	534.4	Corner San Gregorio and Paz Streets, Paco	P 11,437,200.00
AM-JA-016	Residential lot (TCT No. 221778) w/ bldg.	200	Brgy. Pio Del Pilar, Makati	P 4,004,800.00
AM-MC-017	Residential-industrial lot (TCT No. 146227) w/ factory/office bldg.	340	No. 72, Apple St., Km. 18 Maywood Village II, Paranaque City	P 4,255,900.00
AM-ED-018	Residential-industrial lot (TCT No. T-21176) w/ factory/warehouse bldg.	266	No. 762 San Ignacio St., Brgy. Plainview, Mandaluyong City	P 3,984,700.00
AM-ML-019	Residential lot (TCT No. 245737)	300	Anonas St., Sta. Mesa	P 2,101,400.00
STR-ERM	Residential lot (TCT No. 461021) w/ bldg.	270	No.12 Buffalo St., Rancho Estate IV-East, Brgy. Concepcion II, Marikina City	P 1,563,900.00
AM-ML-020	Residential lot (TCT No. C-300082)	338	San Roque, Navotas	P 450,500.00
BATAAN				
AM-ED-021	House & lot (TCT Nos. T-229503 & T-229504)	100	Sta. Monica Homes Wiswis, Camaya, Mariveles Lot 7 & 10 Blk. 32	P 212,300.00
AM-ED-022	House & lot (TCT No. T-229490)	50	Lot 45 Blk. 8	P 151,200.00
AM-ED-023	House & lot (TCT No. T-229497)	50	Lot 18 Blk. 20	P 129,400.00
AM-ED-024	House & lot (TCT No. T-229486)	50	Lot 11 Blk. 9	P 120,800.00
AM-ED-025	House & lot (TCT No. T-229483)	50	Lot 6 Blk. 9	P 120,800.00
AM-ED-026	House & lot (TCT No. T-229472)	50	Lot 12 Blk. 9	P 120,800.00
AM-ED-027	House & lot (TCT No. T-229492)	50	Lot 14 Blk. 20	P 118,500.00
AM-ED-028	House & lot (TCT No. T-229471)	50	Lot 8 Blk. 8	P 111,900.00
BATANGAS				
AM-ML-029	4-agricultural lots (TCT Nos. T-118608, 118609, 118610, and 118611)	88,248	Natu, Rosario	P 4,064,000.00
STR-ERM	Residential lot (TCT No. T-106632)	300	Cherrystone St., Canyon Woods Residential Subd. and Resort, Brgy. San Gregorio, Laurel	P 2,400,000.00
AM-JA-030	Vacant lot (TCT No. T-53084)	159	D. Silang St., Poblacion	P 2,067,000.00
AM-ML-031	2-adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. T-118505 & 118606) w/ bldg.	517	Fortune Village, Brgy. Poblacion, Taysan	P 1,541,000.00
AM-MC-032	Agro-industrial lot (TCT No. T-127899) w/ bldg.	4,545	Bo. Bawi, Padre Garcia	P 1,098,200.00
AM-MC-033	House & lot (TCT No. T-89539)	325	No. 220, Liza Compound, Pob 14, San Roque, Sto. Tomas	P 854,400.00
AM-ML-034	House & lot (TCT No. T-141654)	60	Lot 11, Blk 3, Transville Homes Subd., Banay-Banay, Lipa City	P 198,500.00
BULACAN				
AM-PY-035	3-parcels of agricultural lot (TCT No. T-162317, T-162318, T-162319) w/ bldg.	21,533	Brgy., Matang Tubig, Baliwag	P 12,137,100.00
AM-CP-036	Commercial-residential lot (TCT No. T-118053) w/ bldgs.	2,999	Tadeo St., Poblacion, Bustos	P 8,334,000.00
AM-CP-037	Industrial-residential lot (TCT No. T-170606) w/ bldg	2,593	Sto. Nino St., Poblacion, Bustos.	P 4,000,600.00
AM-MC-038	Industrial lot (TCT No. 444211)	1,276	Lot 4-C, Blk 1 cor. New York & Atlanta Sts., Meycauayan Inds., Subd. 3, Meycauayan	P 3,981,200.00
AM-ML-039	House and lot (TCT No. V-77215)	180	Lot 10, Blk. 8, No. 5148 San Gregorio St., Brgy. T. De Leon, Valenzuela City	P 382,500.00
AM-MC-040	Residential lot (TCT No. V-59978) w/ shop factory bldgs. & 2-candle moulding machines	150	57 Faustino St., Lawang Bato (now Punturin), Valenzuela City	P 336,900.00
AM-PI-041	Vacant lot (TCT No. T-295185)	200	Lopez Jaena St., Cityland Green Breeze Village I, Bo. Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria	P 120,000.00
AM-RT-042	House and lot (TCT No. T-370563)	40	GrottoVille Homes, Gaya-gaya, San Jose Del Monte Lot 1 Blk. 1	P 278,100.00
AM-PI-043	House and lot (TCT No. 418450)	43	Lot 18 Blk. 1	P 124,500.00
AM-MR-044	House and lot (TCT No. T-373670)	40	Lot 6 Blk. 1	P 119,700.00
CAVITE				
AM-MR-045	House & lot (TCT No. T-1101809)	32	Philhomes Ville I, Toclong, Kawit Lot 20 Blk. 11	P 232,800.00
AM-CB-046	House & lot (TCT No. T-1135026)	32	Lot 9 Blk. 10	P 201,300.00
AM-CB-047	House & lot (TCT No. T-1135025)	32	Lot 42 Blk. 11	P 177,400.00
AM-PI-048	House & lot (TCT No. 1101808)	32	Lot 7 Blk. 11	P 157,000.00
AM-PI-049	House & lot (TCT No. T-1087340)	32	Lot 25 Blk. 11	P 138,000.00
AM-CP-050	House & lot (TCT No. T-1101806)	32	Lot 6 Blk. 11	P 136,300.00
AM-MC-051	House & lot (TCT No. T-1101807)	32	Lot 8 Blk. 10	P 121,600.00
AM-MC-052	House & lot (TCT No. T-1088686)	32	Lot 43 Blk. 11	P 117,400.00
AM-FD-053	House & lot (TCT No. T-1129119)	68	Regal Homes, Brgy. Alapan I, Imus Lot 25 Blk. 10	P 294,000.00
AM-RP-054	House & lot (TCT No. T-1131447)	40	Lot 7 Blk. 23A	P 197,700.00
AM-RP-055	House & lot (TCT No. T-1131447)	40	Lot 7 Blk. 23A	P 197,700.00
AM-RP-056	House & lot (TCT No. T-1131446)	40	Lot 6 Blk. 23A	P 181,300.00
AM-RP-057	House & lot (TCT No. T-1131446)	40	Lot 6 Blk. 23A	P 181,300.00
AM-FD-058	House & lot (TCT No. T-1123239)	43	Lot 33 Blk. 23-B	P 167,900.00
AM-FC-059	House & lot (TCT No. T-1124391)	40	Lot 10 Blk. 27	P 154,000.00
AM-CP-060	House & lot (TCT No. T-1133417)	59	Lot 19, Blk. 53, corner Bataan and Sapphire Sts., Holiday Homes, Subd., Bicutan, Gen. Trias	P 318,800.00
AM-JA-061	Industrial lot (TCT No. T-146811) w/ factory bldgs.	6,985	Bo. Talbon, Kawit	P 17,159,400.00
AM-ED-062	Industrial (TCT No. 891662) w/ bldgs.	1,500	Sterling Technopark, Bo. Maguyan, Silang	P 10,111,800.00
AM-ED-063	Residential lot (TCT No. T-36905)	1,500	Bo. Iruhin, Tagaytay City	P 2,266,300.00
AM-DE-064	House & lot (TCT No. T-1109645)	180	No. 143, Sampaloc St., Justinville Subd., Bacoor	P 971,000.00
AM-DE-065	Untitled agro-residential lot (T. D. No. 02-025-00057-R)	1,151	Brgy. Talon, Amadeo	P 631,800.00
AM-DE-066	Residential lot (TCT No. T-979115)	200	Greenbreeze Subd., Lancaan, Dasmarinas	P 189,000.00
AM-DE-067	House & lot (TCT No. T-1089138)	55	Lot 5, Block 9, Satellite Homes III, Brgy., San Jose, Dasmariñas	P 173,400.00
AM-ML-068	House & lot (TCT No. T-68320)	75	Lot 7, Block 3, Tradition Homes, Luciano, Trece Martirez City	P 171,100.00
AM-PI-069	House & lot (TCT No. 369067)	768	Bo. Sinalaw, Alfonso	P 162,500.00
DAVAO CITY				
AM-ED-070	3-contiguous residential lots (TCT Nos. T-359589, T-359590 & T-359591)	2,235	Tacunan Road, Catalunan Grande, Davao City	P 3,126,800.00
GEN. SANTOS CITY				
AM-DE-071	Residential lot (TCT No. T-90815)	10,000	Bo. Tambler, Gen Santos City	P 4,500,000.00
LAGUNA				
AM-FC-072	House & lot (TCT No. T-627973)	40	St. Joseph Village 6, Brgy., Bulong, Cabuyao. Lot 15 Blk. 6	P 207,000.00
AM-PI-073	House & lot (TCT No. T-616398)	40	Lot 83 Blk. 3	P 200,000.00
AM-MR-074	House & lot (TCT No. T-616399)	40	Lot 32 Blk. 4	P 156,600.00
AM-CY-075	House & lot (TCT No. T-463559)	40	Lot 64 Blk. 6	P 155,600.00
AM-PI-076	House & lot (TCT No. T-616400)	40	Lot 82 Blk. 3	P 152,500.00
AM-PI-077	House & lot (TCT No. T-605766)	40	Lot 10 Blk. 8	P 130,600.00
AM-MR-078	House & lot (TCT No. T-584420)	40	Lot 12 Blk. 8	P 125,000.00
AM-DE-079	House & lot (TCT No. T-599208)	40	Lot 16 Blk. 8	P 114,500.00
AM-CB-080	House & lot (TCT No. T-627974)	40	St. Joseph Village 5, Bo. Bulong, Cabuyao Lot 18 Blk. 5	P 158,200.00
AM-MR-081	House & lot (TCT No. T-605767)	46	Lot 8 Blk. 8	P 174,500.00
AM-MR-082	House & lot (TCT No. T-616397)	80	L 2, B-15, St. Joseph Village 4, Bo. Bulong, Cabuyao	P 239,400.00
STR-ERM	Residential lot (TCT No. T-47805) w/bldg.	642	Brgy., Caingin, Sta. Rosa	P 1,910,800.00
STR-ERM	Residential lot (TCT No. T-61392) w/ bldg	192	F F 2 Compound, Brgy. Tagapo, Sta. Rosa	P 1,518,300.00
AM-ML-083	Residential lot (TCT No. T-200189) w/ bldg	97	Bonifacio St., Poblacion, Lumban	P 1,252,800.00
AM-DE-084	Residential lot (TCT No. T-613392) w/ bldg	106	Bergandino Subd., Brgy. Magsaysay, San Pedro	P 375,500.00
NUEVA ECIJA				
AM-PY-085	House & lot (TCT No. T-119918)	100	Visita Amor Subd., Bangad, Cabanatuan City Lot 14 Blk. 1	P 346,500.00
AM-PY-086	House & lot (TCT No. T-119919)	100	Lot 26 Blk. 1	P 342,700.00
AM-PY-087	House & lot (TCT No. T-119920)	100	Lot 18 Blk. 1	P 327,500.00
AM-PY-088	House & lot (TCT No. T-119922)	100	Lot 19 Blk. 1	P 313,800.00
AM-PY-089	House & lot (TCT No. T-116962)	100	Lot 7 Blk. 2	P 310,000.00
AM-PY-090	House & lot (TCT No. T-119921)	100	Lot 20 Blk. 1	P 301,200.00
AM-PY-091	House & lot (TCT No. T-118073)	100	Lot 15 Blk. 1	P 273,200.00
AM-PY-092	House & lot (TCT No. T-116963)	100	Lot 45 Blk. 2	P 242,300.00
AM-PY-093	House & lot (TCT No. T-114462)	100	Lot 21 Blk. 2	P 235,900.00
AM-MC-094	2-agricultural lots (TCT Nos. 274203 and 265109)	7,104	Sto. Cristo, San Isidro	P 1,861,200.00
AM-MC-095	8-residential lots (TCT Nos. 265845, 265846, 265847, 265851, 265853, 265856, 265858 and 265859)	2,400	Sto. Cristo, San Isidro	P 900,000.00
ORIENTAL MINDORO				
AM-ED-096	2-agro residential lots (TCT No. 122704 & 122705)	9,563	Sto. Niño, Puerto Galera	P 5,000,000.00
OZAMIS CITY				
AM-ML-097	5-contiguous industrial lots (TCT Nos. T-26086, T-26087, T-26088, T-26090 & T-26092) w/ bldgs.	22,262	National Highway, Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamis City	P 50,205,000.00
AM-ML-098	House & lot (TCT No. T-26089)	549	Ledesma Extension, Bo. Centro, Ozamis City	P 3,273,200.00
QUEZON				
AM-JA-099	House & lot (TCT No. T-25948)	400	Poblacion, Real	P 1,600,700.00
AM-MC-100	Vacant lot (TCT No. T-26669)	7,715	Purok Bouganvilla, Brgy., Capalong, Real	P 1,191,400.00
AM-MC-101	Agricultural lot (TCT No. T-367806)	10,000	Bo. Sampaloc, Sariaya	P 550,000.00
RIZAL				
CWB-043	2-adjoining industrial lots (TCT No. 684192 and TCT No. 684193) w/ bldgs	22,353	Mahabang Parang, Angono	P 26,627,200.00
AM-DE-102	Industrial-residential lot (TCT No. R-14327) w/ bldg.	1,377	C. Lawis Ext., brgy., San Luis, Antipolo City	P 5,986,000.00
AM-DE-103	Agro residential lot (TCT No. 454354)	10,000	San Jose, Montalban (now Rodriguez)	P 3,593,100.00
AM-MR-104	2 adjoining agro-industrial lots (TCT No. T-224628 & 224243)	3,561	So. Colaique, Brgy., San Roque, Antipolo City	P 1,780,500.00
AM-DE-105	House & lot (TCT No. 69138)	300	Lot 11, Block 3, Assumption St., St. Gregory Village, Brgy. Balanti, Cainta	P 1,546,600.00
AM-MC-106	Agro-residential lot (TCT No. M 96063) w/ piggery bldg.	3,247	Bagumbayan, Teresa	P 1,052,600.00
AM-ML-107	House and Lot (TCT No. M-128489)	36	Lot 9, Block 20, Living Water Subd., Brgy. Quisao, Pililla	P 158,900.00
	4-undeveloped subdivision lots		Bermuda Heights Subd., Bos. San Isidro and Ibayo, Antipolo City	
AM-PY-108a	TCT No. 403152	336	Lot 1 Blk. 3	P 322,600.00
AM-PY-108b	TCT No. 403153	337	Lot 5 Blk. 4	P 323,600.00
AM-PY-108c	TCT No. 403155	277	Lot 2 Blk. 5	P 266,000.00
AM-PY-108d	TCT No. 403157	287	Lot 1 Blk. 7	P 275,600.00
ZAMBALES				
AM-MC-109	Agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-48082)	6,630	Bo. Locapon, Sta. Cruz	P 1,500,000.00
ZAMBOANGA				
AM-MC-110	House & lot (TCT No. T-153721)	162	Lot 26, Blk 14, Country Homes, Ph 3, Ayala, Zamboanga City	P 200,700.00
(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")				
AM-JA-111	1 lot taxi cabs (9 units Toyota Corolla XL 4 door sedan, 1995 model, in stuck up condition)		La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	P 244,700.00
CWB-7	Various machinery & eqpt. (1-pneumatic high speed overarm router, 1 pneumatic nailer, 1-pneumatic stapler)		No. 19, Road 7, Pagasa, Quezon City	P 70,000.00
AM-ML-112	Ricemill machinery and eqpt.		National Highway, Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamiz City	P 49,000.00
AM-ML-113	One(1) lot various eqpt. & furnitures (5 air conditioner, 9-wooden chapel chair, 150 school desk, 3 book shelves)		DBP Depot, Dona Severina Subd Parañaque City	P 36,900.00
AM-CP-114	Various machinery & eqpt. for chocolate/candy mfg		Serg's Compound, Ortigas Avenue, Cainta, Rizal	P 293,700.00 to P 6,220,500.00
AM-DE-115	Various chattels (1-lathe machine, 1-precision surface grinding machine, 1-vertical milling machine)		La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	P 100,000.00 to P 168,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:
1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

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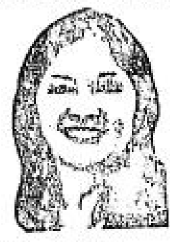
ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - March 14 & 15, 2006)

PBA ambivalent on cage group

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

PBA GOVERNORS got the impression that the entry of Welcoat in the pro league would be the main agenda during the emergency board meeting called by PBA commissioner Noli Eala last Monday.

As it turned out, however, it was the newly-formed Pilipinas Basketball that was tackled at length by the governors.

The word I got yesterday morning was that the PBA had put its foot down on the commissioner's commitment to join the other major basketball stakeholders in forming the new association.

This piece of info supposedly came from one of the governors who attended the meeting. The governor said the commissioner had not reported on the progress of his meetings with the stakeholders. This was the first time, he said, that Eala was making a report on the constitution and by-laws being drafted by the group.

This arduously prepared set of documents was "junked" by the board, my source quoted the governor as saying.

* * *

Following my usual SOP, I got in touch with a number of governors to verify the info that accidentally came my way. As I write this, I still have to hear from two governors I had texted.

I decided to call the third.

The governor said the PBA commitment was definitely not junked. But it wasn't approved either.

"We just wanted to see if a third option was possible. If we can work out an arrangement that would not require total commitment to the new association. We wanted an arrangement similar to the one we previously had with the BAP. We would continue to lend our players, give our support for the sake of flag and country," explained the board member.

For the PBA, the next step was to communicate this proposal to Fiba sec-gen Patrick Baumann, who had required that the PBA be an integral part of the "new" BAP, if the Philippines is to regain its active status in the Fiba.

Meanwhile, I await word on the stakeholders meeting with the POC to which they were scheduled to present the newly drafted Pilipinas Basketball constitution and by-laws yesterday afternoon.

* * *

I was told that Sta. Lucia Realty governor Buddy Encarnado was absent from the Monday meeting. Could his absence have anything to do with the post-game commotion that occurred at the Araneta Coliseum dugout last Sunday?

From what I gathered, Buddy was so disgusted and enraged with the officiating of their game against Barangay Ginebra.

* * *

Seated side-by-side at the head table during the last Scoop sa Kamayan session on Padre Faura were guests Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay of Surigao del Sur and boxing champ Brian Viloria's father, Ben, who had a chance to chat and trace their family lineage.

They were both surprised to discover that they were distant cousins.

"My father comes from Magsinggal in Ilocos Sur, but there are many Pichays in Narvacan, hometown of Ben and Brian (who is Butch's nephew, as it turned out)," explained the congressman.

* * *

Incidentally, the newly elected NCFP board meets today at the Cowrie Grill of the Manila Hotel to elect their officers. Colleagues say Pichay, who garnered the second highest number of votes during last Sunday's board elections at the Celebrity Sports Plaza, is a cinch for the presidency.

Former NCFP president Go Teng Kok almost didn't make it to the 15-man board. He was No. 15 with 355 votes.

Topnotcher Atty. Samuel Estimo got 702 votes, almost double that of GTK's, followed by Pichay's 679, Rep. Mat Defensor's 673, Mayor Bambol Tolentino's 641 and Jess Torre's 621, to comprise the first five.

* * *

Herman's Hermits, the legendary pop group from Manchester that sold more than 50 million records in the '60s, will perform at the Araneta Coliseum on March 17 and at the Manila Hotel on March 18. The group first came to the Philippines in 1966. Tickets to the two-day show are available at the Araneta Ticketnet office and at the Manila Hotel.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Divine Right (6), Hukom (8), Sandok (2), Loaded (7)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—El Love Señora (4), Mister Cool (3), Western Dancer (5), Wine and Roses (6)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Going Strike (8), Stratosphere/Miss Mirage (3), Makati Haven (4), Virgin Island (7), Saint Bernard (6)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Hillary/Condoleeza (8), Passing Through (6), Treasure Island/Sun Coast (1), Tervalac (5), Uncle (3), Overture (4)
Race 6—(Super Six/Qrt/Tri)—Lakambini (3), Guided Missile (1), Red Phoenix (9), Ingay Ingay (6), Richie Rich (5), Soverein Dancer (8)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Don King (7), Black Widow (3), Fernan Ikaw Pa Rin (7), Love Talk (4), Heart Of My Soul (8)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Lady Be Gold (3), Valiant Queen (5), Ravenworth (1), The Strategist (2)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Dazzling Affair (3), Jokes Only (11), Astimegoesby (1), Magical Surf (12), Cool Operator (7, Rock Attack Attack (2)

Stakeholders disagree on Fiba 'amendment'

EALA

TRINIDAD

LINA

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF THE MEMORANDUM signed by the international basketball federation (Fiba) and the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) is stalling the unification of the sport's major stakeholders.

Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) president Joey Lina said yesterday the stakeholders misunderstood the essence of the memorandum of understanding between the Fiba and the POC, a fact contested by two major proponents of the formation of the new group.

In essence, Lina said that the Fiba still has to suspend the BAP before any new federation is formed and the suspension of the country from international meets is lifted.

"The Fiba still recognizes the BAP, so how can the Fiba recognize a new body?" Lina said.

Simple, echoed both PBA commissioner Noli Eala and PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad.

"The BAP doesn't have to be suspended for us to unify the major stakeholders in the country and form a new federation," said Eala, citing a provision in the memorandum which states that once the new federation is formed—complete with new constitution and by-laws and a new set of officers—it will take the place of the BAP.

"We can't just rely on the MoU per se," Lina said. "The MoU was amended and clarified by the Fiba."

Lina pointed out that in a letter sent by the Fiba late last year, it said that the lifting of the suspension can only be achieved by the "return to status quo" or by "the full suspension of BAP from Fiba and then the provisional recognition of the new entity by then already approved by the general assembly of the POC."

Eala said the letter was a "neither-here-nor-there type," one that is open to interpretation.

"The BAP explains it one way, the POC sees it another way," said Eala.

Trinidad said Lina "was just being too technical" about the clarificatory letter written by Fiba secretary gen-

STAKEHOLDERS/ A32

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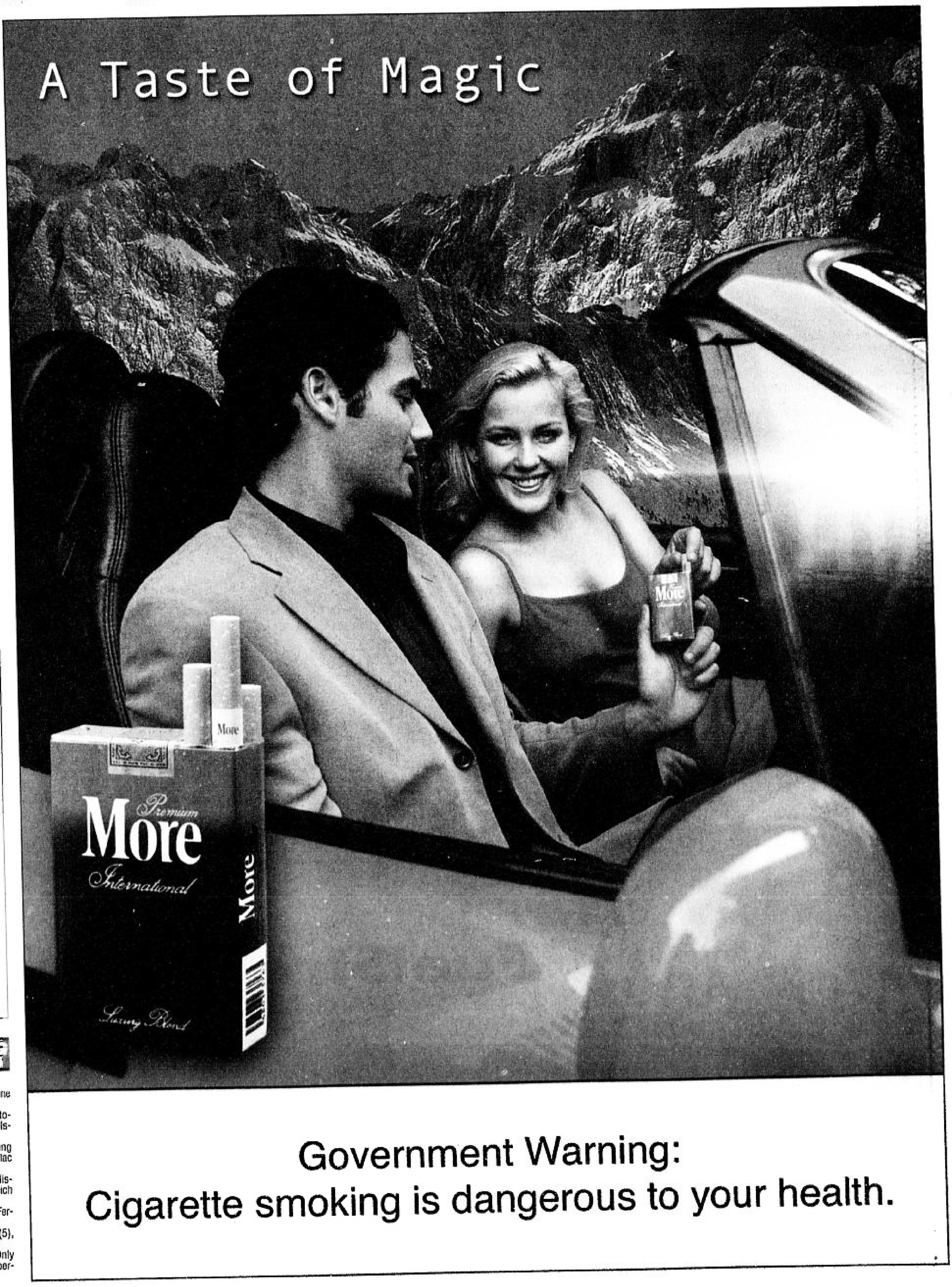
A Taste of Magic

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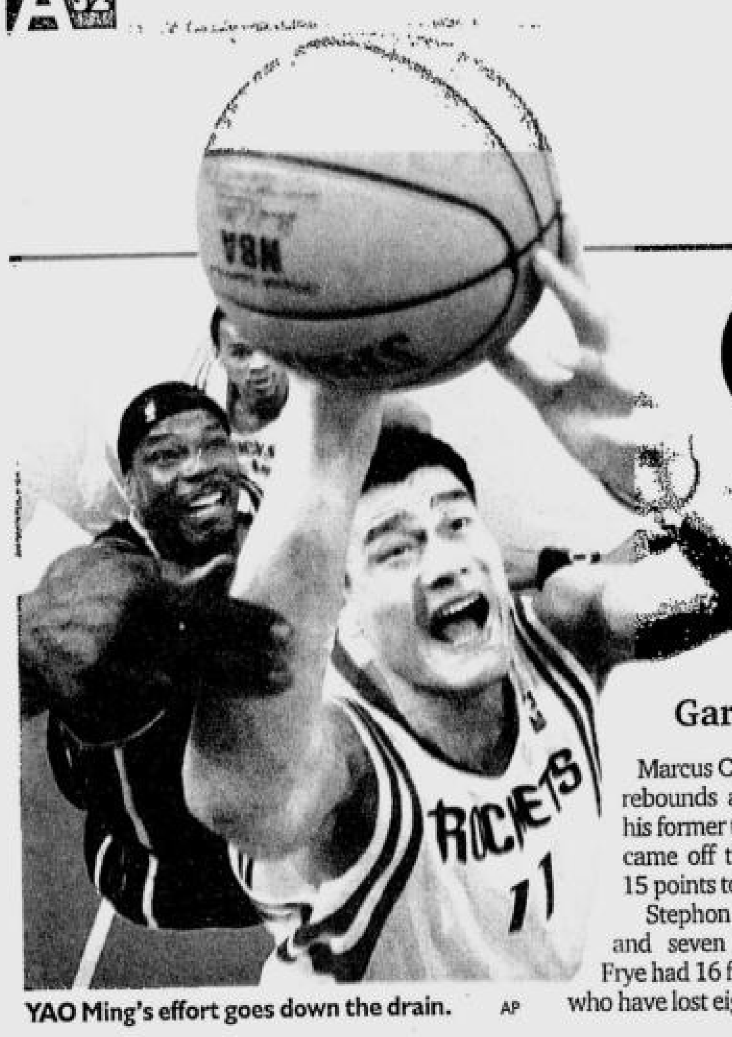
SPORTS

Carmelo lifts Nuggets



YAO Ming's effort goes down the drain. AP

NEW YORK—CARMELO ANTHONY poured in a game-high 35 points to guide the surging Denver Nuggets to a 108-96 victory over the New York Knicks on Monday at Madison Square Garden, their fifth win in six games.

Marcus Camby had 10 points, 18 rebounds and five blocks against his former team while Earl Boykins came off the bench to contribute 15 points to the Denver effort.

Stephon Marbury had 25 points and seven assists and Channing Frye had 16 for the struggling Knicks, who have lost eight of their last 10.

The Knicks managed to stay with the Nuggets through the opening two quarters, trailing 61-56 at the half, but Denver stamped their authority on the contest in the third to open up a 15-point cushion.

Denver improved their lead to as much as 20 points in the final quarter then coasted the rest of the way.

In Houston, Vince Carter nailed 29 points and Jason Kidd had a triple-double, sparking the New Jersey Nets to a 90-77 win over the Houston Rockets.

Kidd finished with 11 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists to record his sixth triple-double of the season and 73rd of this career.

Yao Ming had a game high 36 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Rockets.

In Indianapolis, Anthony Johnson and Danny Granger each had 21 points, leading the Indiana Pacers past the Orlando Magic, 97-83.

In Milwaukee, the Bucks snapped their longest home losing streak in six years at five games when Bobby Simmons scored 18 points and Michael Redd added 16 to lead an 88-87 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Milwaukee still looked lethargic, blowing a 17-point lead in the second half before coming from behind to win. Milwaukee had won six straight at home after a victory Valentine's Day against Seattle, but since went sour—losing eight of 12 overall to fall below .500 in the Eastern Conference.

Josh Smith finished with a career-high 25 points for the Hawks, who at 20-41 were assured of their seventh straight season without a winning record after having seven straight winning campaigns in the 1990s. *Reuters, AP*

● **NBA on TV:** SOLAR SPORTS—Boston vs Memphis (live at 9 a.m., replay tomorrow, 5:30 p.m.); SPORTS PLUS—LA Lakers vs Sacramento (live at 11 a.m., replay at 7 p.m.), Phoenix vs Seattle (delayed telecast at 9:30 p.m., replay tomorrow, 2:30 p.m.)

South Korea humbles US in World Baseball Classic

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—UNDEFEATED SOUTH Korea shocked the United States, 7-3, here Monday, delivering a decisive victory to establish the Asian group winners as the team to beat in the World Baseball Classic.

Lee Seung-Yeop connected for his Classic-best fifth home run in as many games and Choi Hee-Seop snapped a 3-for-14 slump by smashing a three-run homer while Korean pitchers baffled a top collection of Major League Baseball talent.

"We're happy and ecstatic we have beaten the strongest team," Choi said. "We're very motivated. We don't have any team we should be afraid of now."

There is no team the Koreans have not already beaten barring their path to next Monday's championship game at nearby San Diego against the winner of a hotly competitive Caribbean second-round group where showdowns are scheduled.

Venezuela and Dominican Republic bounced back from defeats a night earlier for Monday triumphs that created games Tuesday and Wednesday where winners will reach the semifinals and losers are eliminated.

"This is the Venezuelan team I wanted to see," Venezuela manager Luis Sojo said. "I want some more. We came through when we needed to."

Victor Martinez's first grand slam and a two-run homer by Endy Chavez led Venezuela past Puerto Rico, 6-0, while David Ortiz smacked a home run and Odalis Perez pitched 4 2/3 scoreless innings as Dominican Republic beat Cuba, 7-3.

"We felt relieved," Dominican manager Manny Acta said. "These guys are professionals. *AFP*

Stakeholders . . .

From page A31

eral Patrick Baumann, the same person who served as the Fiba signatory in the agreement with the POC.

"If you want to get technical about it, then there is no amendment in the first place," Trinidad said. "There is no way that a MoU can be amended unilaterally."

"Any amendment to the MoU will have to be agreed upon by all the parties who were signatories to that document," Eala added. "And the POC did not sign any amendment to the MoU."

SPORTSWATCH

Early Checkmate clinics

THE MILO CHECKMATE CLINIC WILL OFFER early summer clinics starting March 20 in Quezon City and Mandaluyong. In Quezon City, the clinic will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the fourth floor of the J&F Divino building, 967 Aurora Blvd. The Mandaluyong clinic will be held from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the lower second floor of the St. Francis Square, which is located at the corner of Doña Julia Vargas and Bank Drive. Available schedules are daily (Mondays to Saturdays) and thrice-a-week. Call 8268560 and 0916-8521069 or 0922-5397392.

Uy, Santos/Araneta up

FIREFLY 14 OF FRANKIE UY AND JADE RESORT Juliane LG of Arman Santos and Eddie Araneta scored 3 points each Monday to lead the qualifiers for tonight's championship round of the National Cockers Association's 7-cock derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. Not far behind with 2 points each were Red Creek I of Iggy Arroyo and Boy Jiao, Magic Wing Sundance of Ronnie Puno, Binangonan Balbina of Gov. Ito Ynares, RM Firefly of Amboy Manlapaz, Firefly 100 RM, Firefly.. RM 13 of William Go, BR Fatman S Bacolor of Tony Tan and Pepito Ngo, Jade Resort of Arman Santos and Pichay Spartans of the Pichay-Briones tandem. With 1 1/2 points each are Mulawin C Colorado of F. Berin, Agains All Odds of Gerry Ramos, and Red Creek II of Boy de Roca.

SJC 4-cock derby today

THE SECOND ROUND OF THE "NO ENTRY Fee 4-cock derby" gets going today at San Juan Coliseum with 75 matches lined up. Host Aba Badiola pegged the guaranteed prize at P1.2 million. Submission of entries for the event is from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. The derby sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Meanwhile, the coliseum's "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" will be held on April 3, dangling a guaranteed prize of P574,000 for an entry fee of only P2,200. The fastest win champion will also receive a brand-new Hondo XRM motorcycle and P60,000 cash.

60-fight showdown set

A SPECIAL 3-COCK DERBY FEATURING A showdown of the country's top breeders gets going at 5 p.m. today at the Makati Coliseum with 60 clashes billed. The total guaranteed prize is P200,000 in the event sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace. Last Monday, 69 fights were held in the "Super Pacman 5-cock derby" hosted by boxing champ Manny Pacquiao, who emerged as one of six champions. Up next at the Makati Coliseum is the "Sentenciador 3-cock derby" on March 18. For details, call 8963545 and 8956475.

Top breeders duke it out

IT WILL BE A BATTLE OF TOP BREEDERS FROM Cavite, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas and Parañaque tonight with a 3-cock derby at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Guaranteed prize is P200,000 for an entry fee of P5,500. Submission of entries is from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. today. Also, the "Pamigay Premyo 3-cock derby" is slated on March 23 and 25, with P150,000 as guaranteed prize for a P2,200 entry fee. Hackfights are also slated at LPC from Monday to Sunday, with P20,000 going to the first 20 winners. For details, call 8731040 and 8743910.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
No. 2006-003-g

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE INTENDED FOR THE PHILHEALTH HEAD OFFICE

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)**, through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) 2005, intends to apply the sum of **PhP 33,420,000.00 per annum for 2 years** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Lease of Office Space Intended for the PhilHealth Head Office. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PhilHealth now invites Bids from duly licensed companies or business firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the said procurement with the following specifications:

Location
The location of the building shall be within a one (1) kilometer radius from the Rizal Capitol Building and shall entail minimal relocation cost.

The area should not be prone to flooding.

Space Requirement
The total space requirement (rentable) is at least 11,000 sq. m.

Parking Requirement
The bidder should provide one (1) parking space for every 130 sq. m. of space to be occupied/rented by PhilHealth.

Period of the Contract
The term of the Contract shall be for a period of Two (2) years.

CY 2004 to CY 2005 is the relevant period for contracts which will be required to be submitted by PhilHealth.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of the Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) to be determined as such after the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC)** in the Central Office of PhilHealth, Room 1107 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City, and inspect the Bidding Documents from **8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Interested Bidders may purchase a complete set of Bidding Documents from March 16 to 28, 2006 at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **PhP 10,000.00** cash. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

PhilHealth will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **March 29, 2006, 10:30 a.m.** at the **OSBAC Conference Room** (Rm. 1106), PhilHealth Central Office, 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the **OSBAC Conference Room** on or before **April 12, 2006, 10:30 a.m.** The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the **OSBAC Conference Room**. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **April 12, 2006, 10:30 a.m.** at the **OSBAC Conference Room**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process,and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office
Mr. Joseph O. Vergara
Rm. 1107, 11th Floor Citystate Centre
709 Shaw Blvd, Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 637-9999 locals 1128, 1130 and 1830
E-mail add: osbac@philhealth.gov.ph
Facsimile No. 637-4735
www.philhealth.gov.ph

(Sgd.) Atty. VALENTIN C. GUANIO
***Chairperson**, Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services*

(PDI - March 15 & 22, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Cebu
COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

INVITATION TO BID

The City of Cebu, through its Committee on Awards invites individuals/corporations to bid for the disposal of the following Cebu City lot:

The property to be disposed is a Cebu City owned lot with a land area of exactly Forty Six Thousand Three Hundred Forty Five (46,345) square meters located at General Maxilom Avenue, North Reclamation Area (currently occupied by the city's Department of Public Services), covered by TCT No. T-2449.

Sale will be through public bidding. Minimum bid price is **Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P12,500.00) per square meter.**

All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond in the form of cash or Manager's Check in an amount equivalent to twenty (20%) of the bid amount. Bidders bond of all losing bids shall be returned when the award is decided.

All particulars relative the Bid Security, Evaluation of Bids and Award shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of COA Circular 92-386, Rules and Regulations on Supply and Property Management in the Local Governments.

The schedule of activities is as follows:

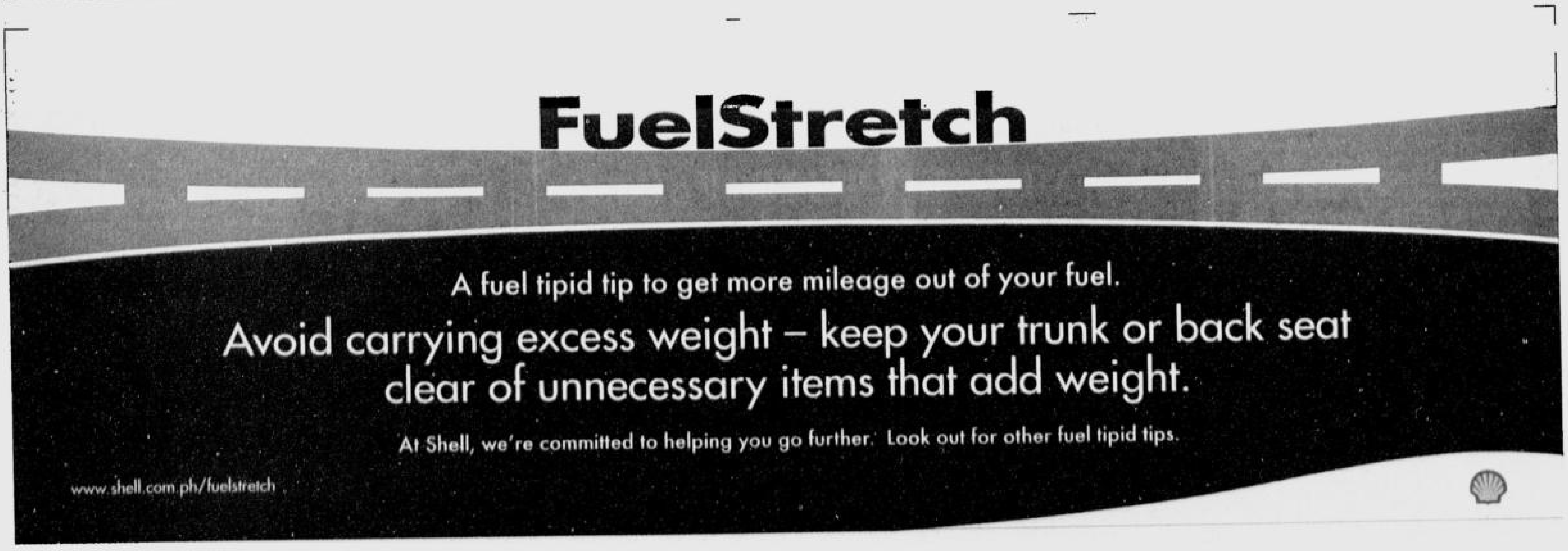
Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI)	March 15-30, 2006	City Admin. Office
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	March 15-30, 2006	City Admin. Office
3. Site Inspection	March 31, 2006, 8-12 PM	
4. Pre-Bid Conference	March 31, 2006, 2:00 PM	City Admin. Office
5. Receipt and Opening of Bids	April 11, 2006, 3:00 PM	City Admin. Office

The Committee on Awards will issue Bidding Documents to bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 10,000.00 to the Cebu City Cashier.

The City Government of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) TOMAS R. OSMEÑA
Chairman

(PDI - March 15 & 20, 2006)



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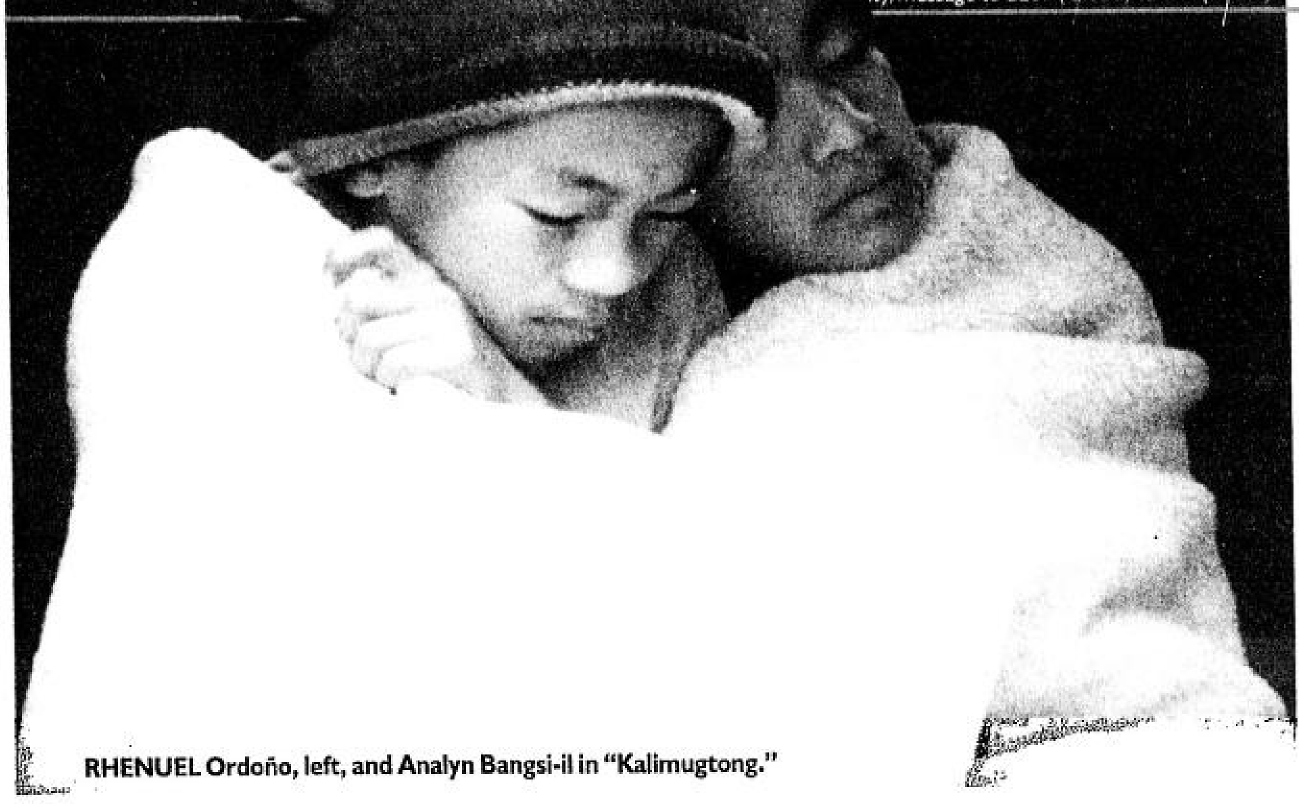


RHENUEL Ordoño, left, and Analyn Bangsi-il in "Kalimugtong."

Long road to a reward

Indie director seeks cash prize so he can pay his two 'stars'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IN MES DE Guzman's acclaimed film, "Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong," children of the Kankana-ey tribe "traverse long, winding roads… steep and slippery mountainside paths, to reach their school, 15 km from their destitute barrio."

Although it's a work of fiction, "Kalimugtong" exudes heartbreaking honesty.

Second place winner at the local digital competition of the Cinemanila International Film Festival, the movie "starred" true-life Igorot children in lead roles.

The movie is slated to make the rounds of the international film fest circuit soon, just like De Guzman's previous

LONG ROAD/ A2-2

ARANETA CENTER

Gateway Ali MALL Farmers Plaza

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY — Gateway CINEPLEX*10 — DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

BREAKING NEWS 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00	HOSTEL 1:20 / 3:25 / 5:30 / 7:35 / 9:40	V FOR VENDETTA 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
HOUSE OF FURY 1:10 / 3:15 / 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:30	YOURS, MINE & OURS 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30	SHAGGY DOG	V FOR VENDETTA 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
SHE'S THE MAN 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20	CASANOVA 7:30 / 9:50	DATE MOVIE 16 BLOCKS	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

Ali MALL CINEMAS

1	V FOR VENDETTA 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00	2	HOSTEL 12:15 / 2:20 / 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35	3	THE FEARLESS 12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20
4	HOUSE OF FURY 12:05 / 2:10 / 4:15 / 6:20 / 8:25	5	SHE'S THE MAN 12:35 / 3:15 / 5:55 / 8:35		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

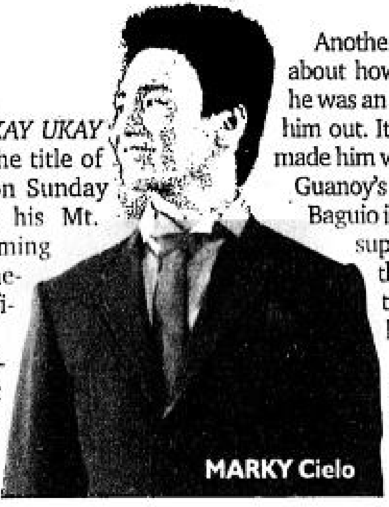
For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM

HERMANS HERMITS - PETER NOONE CONCERT MARCH 17, FRIDAY 8 pm	SERGIO MENDES & BRASIL 2006 MARCH 18, SATURDAY 8 pm

Marky and 'ukay-ukay' votes

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Romy Homillada



MARKY Cielo

WAS IT THE SO-CALLED *UKAY UKAY* vote that gave Marky Cielo the title of "StarStruck" Sole Survivor on Sunday night? Supporters back in his Mt. Province hometown are claiming this. Mark himself thinks something else helped decide the final results.

Helen Guanoy, a clothes dealer in Baguio City said she "kept texting every week so [Marky] would win. He made all of us proud."

Another trader insisted: "We read about how people treated him because he was an Igorot, so we all agreed to help him out. It was the *ukay-ukay* vote [that made him win]."

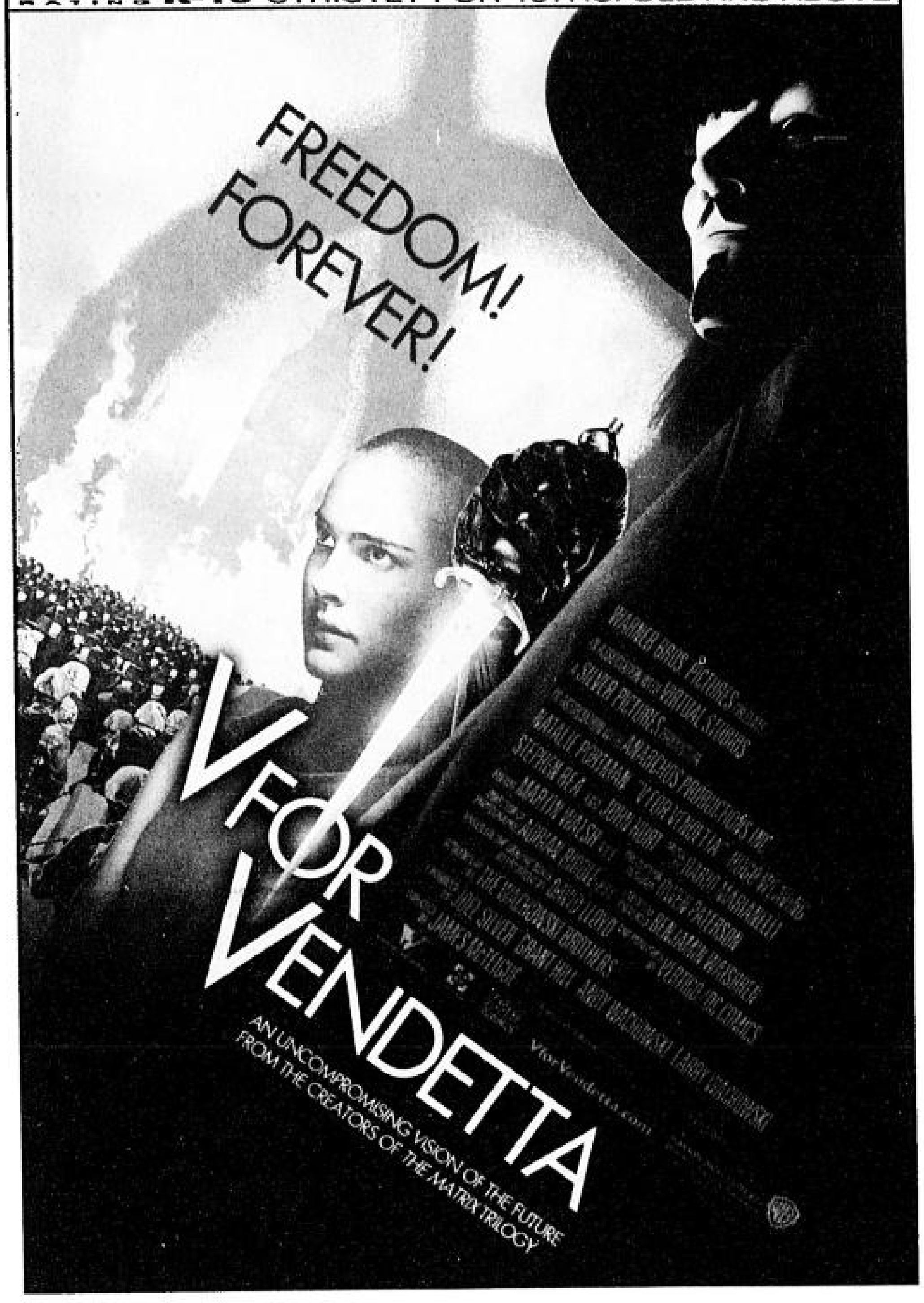
Guanoy's shop at the Bayanihan Hotel in Baguio is one of Marky's unofficial "text support centers." A huge banner that says, "Marky Cielo, Pride of the Cordillera," hangs from the hotel's second-floor window.

But in an interview with INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday, Marky, 17, said he thought for sure that he had

MARKY/ A2-3

GRAND OPENING TODAY

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13YRS. OLD AND ABOVE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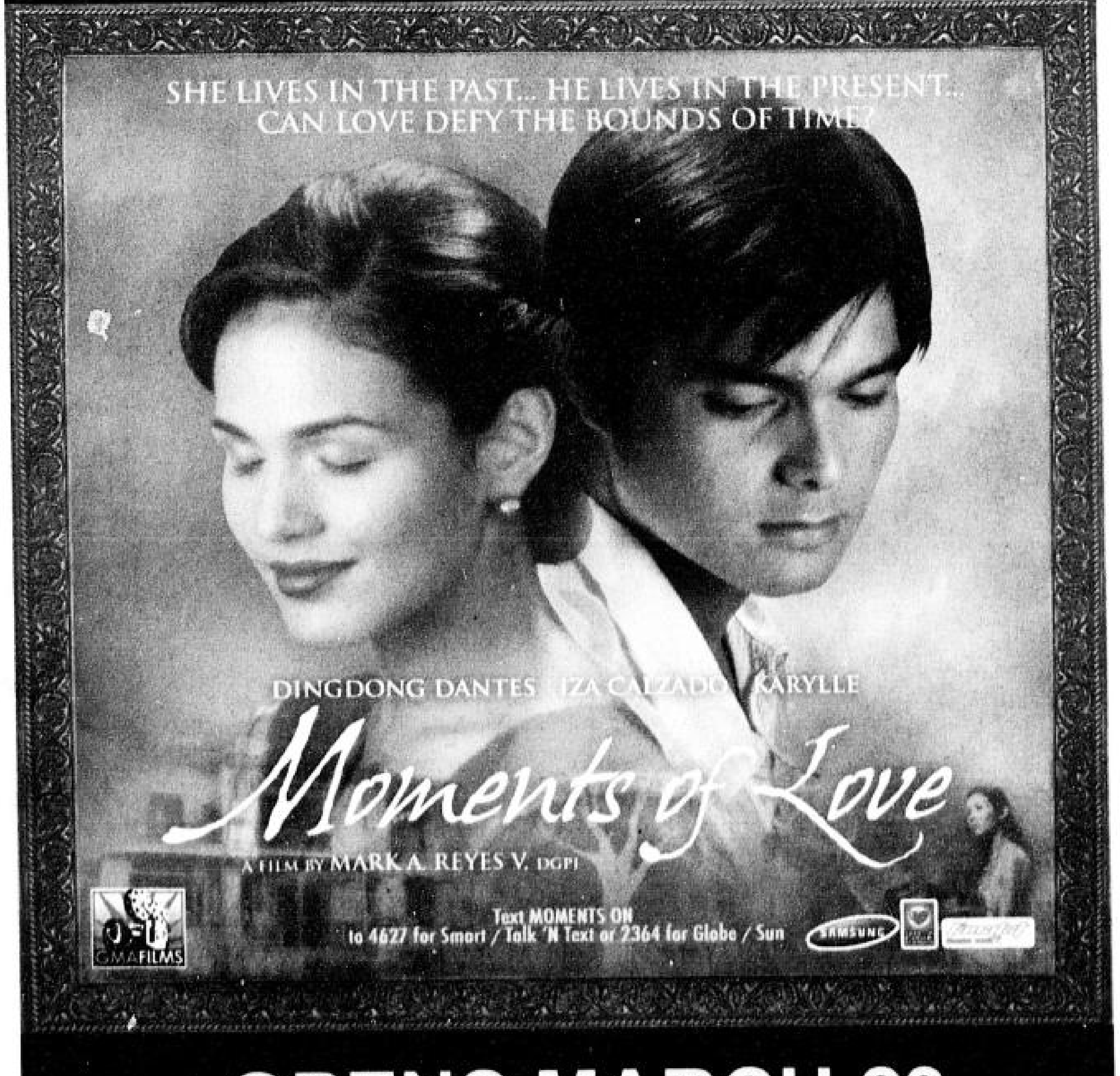
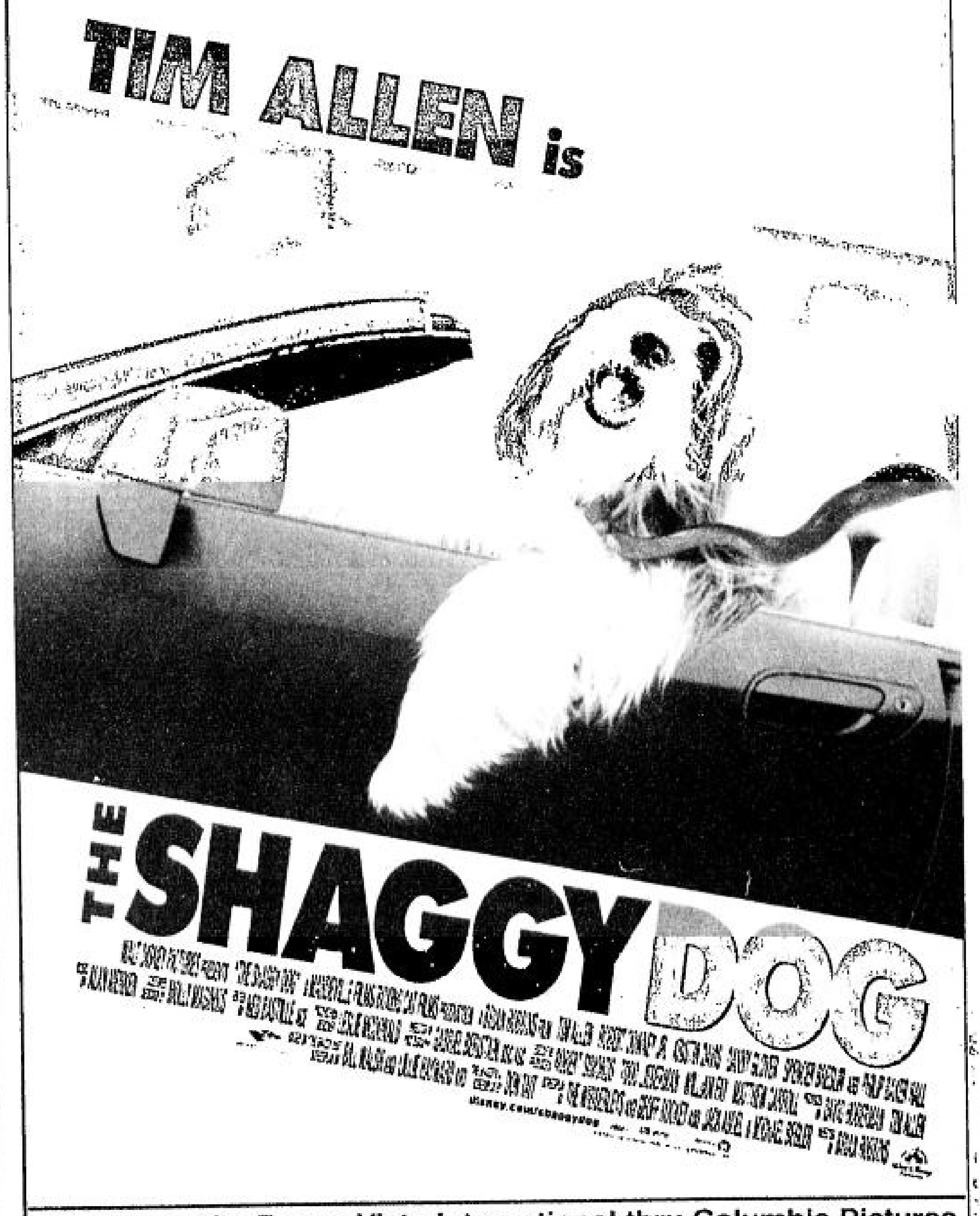

SHE LIVES IN THE PAST… HE LIVES IN THE PRESENT.. CAN LOVE DEFY THE BOUNDS OF TIME?
DINGDONG DANTES
IZA CALZADO
KARYLLE
Moments of Love
A FILM BY MARK A. REYES V. DGPI
GMA FILMS
Text MOMENTS ON to 4627 for Smart / Talk 'N Text or 2364 for Globe / Sun
SAMSUNG

OPENS MARCH 29

FUN & FURRY FAMILY COMEDY

OPENS TODAY!

MTRCB RATING G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED


TIM ALLEN is
THE SHAGGY DOG
disney.com/shaggydog

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Indie director travels circuitous road

From page A2-1

works, "Diliman" and "Batang Trapo."

Loan

Before hitting the high road, however, De Guzman recalled the circuitous journey he had to embark on for "Kalimugtong."

He took out a loan and rushed shooting in a week to scrimp on rentals. But today, five months after the Cinemanila festival, winners have yet to receive their cash prizes.

He said he had been calling Manila City Hall, the event's major sponsor, incessantly "for the past four months."

On Feb. 19, he wrote a letter to Mayor Lito Atienza, imploring the mayor to "act on the matter."

He wrote in Filipino: "The cash prizes could be used to fund futures films."

He is, in fact, working on a new movie ("Balikbayan Box"), De Guzman said. "But before I could focus on that, I'd like to pay the salaries of the cast and crew of 'Kalimugtong,' as well as the rental fees for the camera and lights."

He's eager to get the P1 million-prize especially because of the movie's lead stars, Igorot children Rhenuel Ordoño and Analyn Bangsi-il. "I already sent them raincoats and a soccer ball, but I would like very much to give them the talent fees they so rightfully deserve."

BALD beauty Aleck Bovick.

Aleck cast out of PBB house

By Nini Valera

IT'S OVER FOR ALECK BOVICK.

Aleck, 21, was evicted on Saturday night from "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Edition"—the fifth housemate to go, with only 13.6 percent of the week's text votes.

A bald but beaming Aleck greeted the live audience in front of Big Bro's house in Quezon City. At the studio, she was welcomed by her father Aurellio Tambis Jr., sister Rizza, and boyfriend Carlo Maceda.

"I was bent on leaving," Aleck told INQUIRER Entertainment in Filipino. "I missed my family."

On Friday, Big Brother played a bizarre trick on the housemates, challenging the nominees' best friends to take their place.

Gretchen Malalad', Aleck's closest friend inside the house, took her place. The actress became emotional, tore off her lapel microphone—a violation of house rules—and refused to talk to Gretchen (though she later admitted she was touched by the gesture).

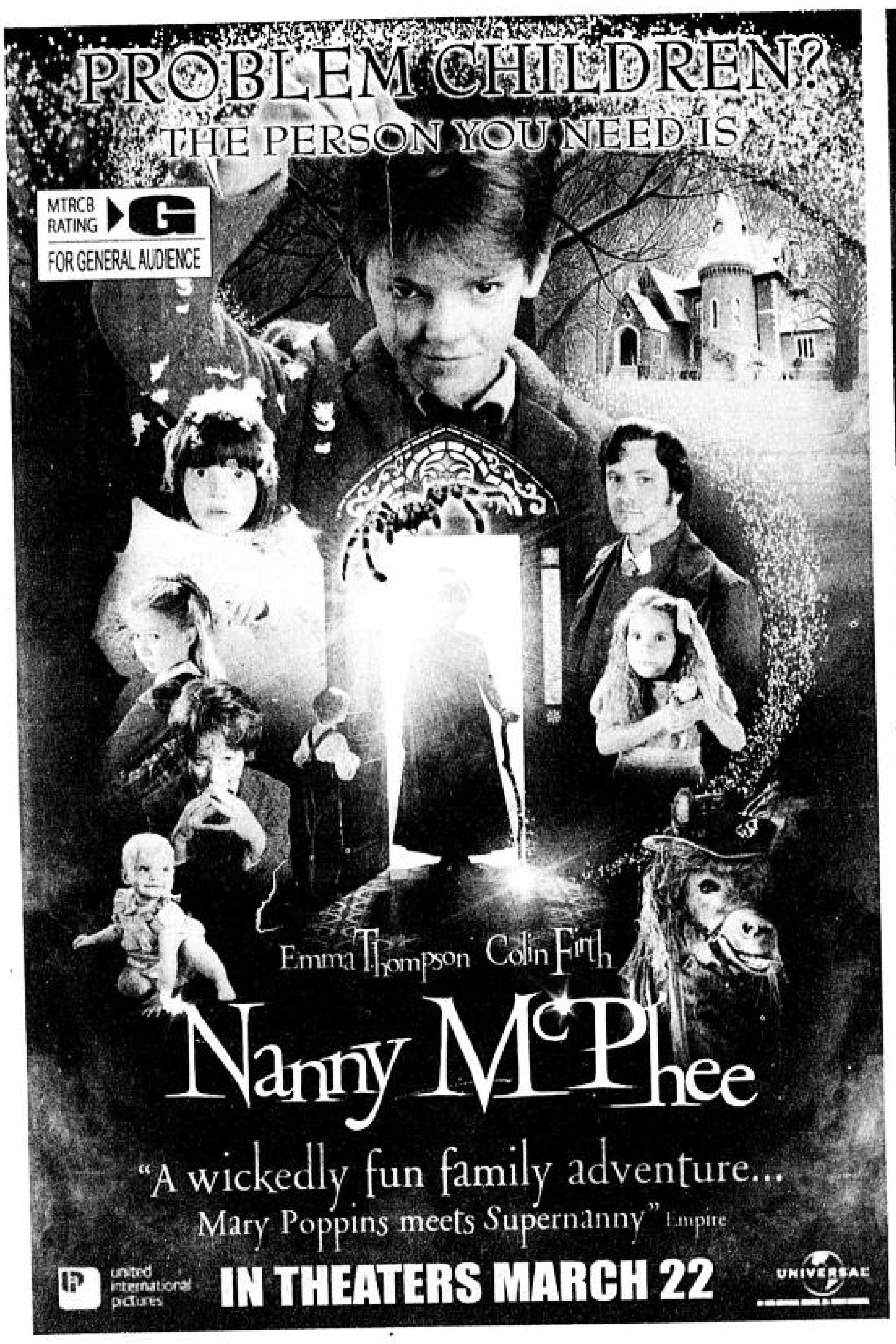
"I wanted to decide for myself," Aleck said.

She admitted that she didn't like Big Bro's challenge: "Our friendships and loyalties were put to the test."

While inside the house, Aleck had her long hair shaved in exchange for P100,000 to give to a loved one. The hair went to children with cancer, and the money went to Aleck's father.

"I didn't know I was capable of such a sacrifice," she said. "Now I know myself better."

Carlo said he still had to get used to a bald Aleck. "It's like having a boy beside you."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16 BLOCKS PG13	HOSTEL R18	V FOR VENDETTA R13

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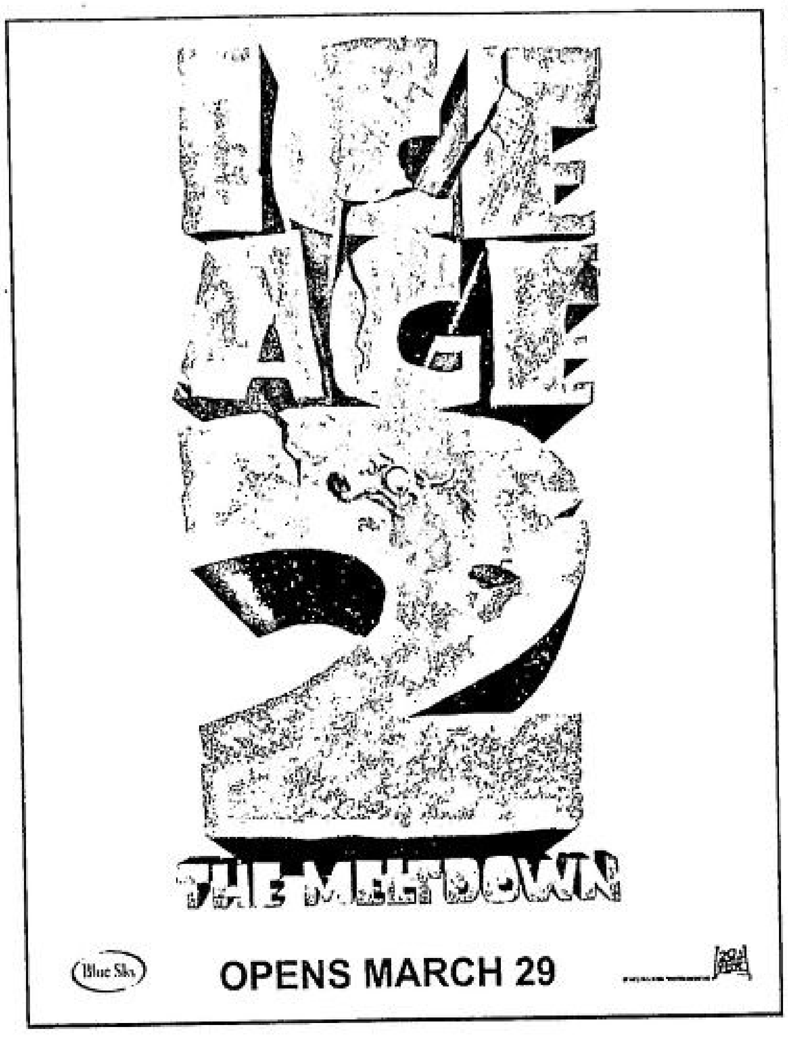
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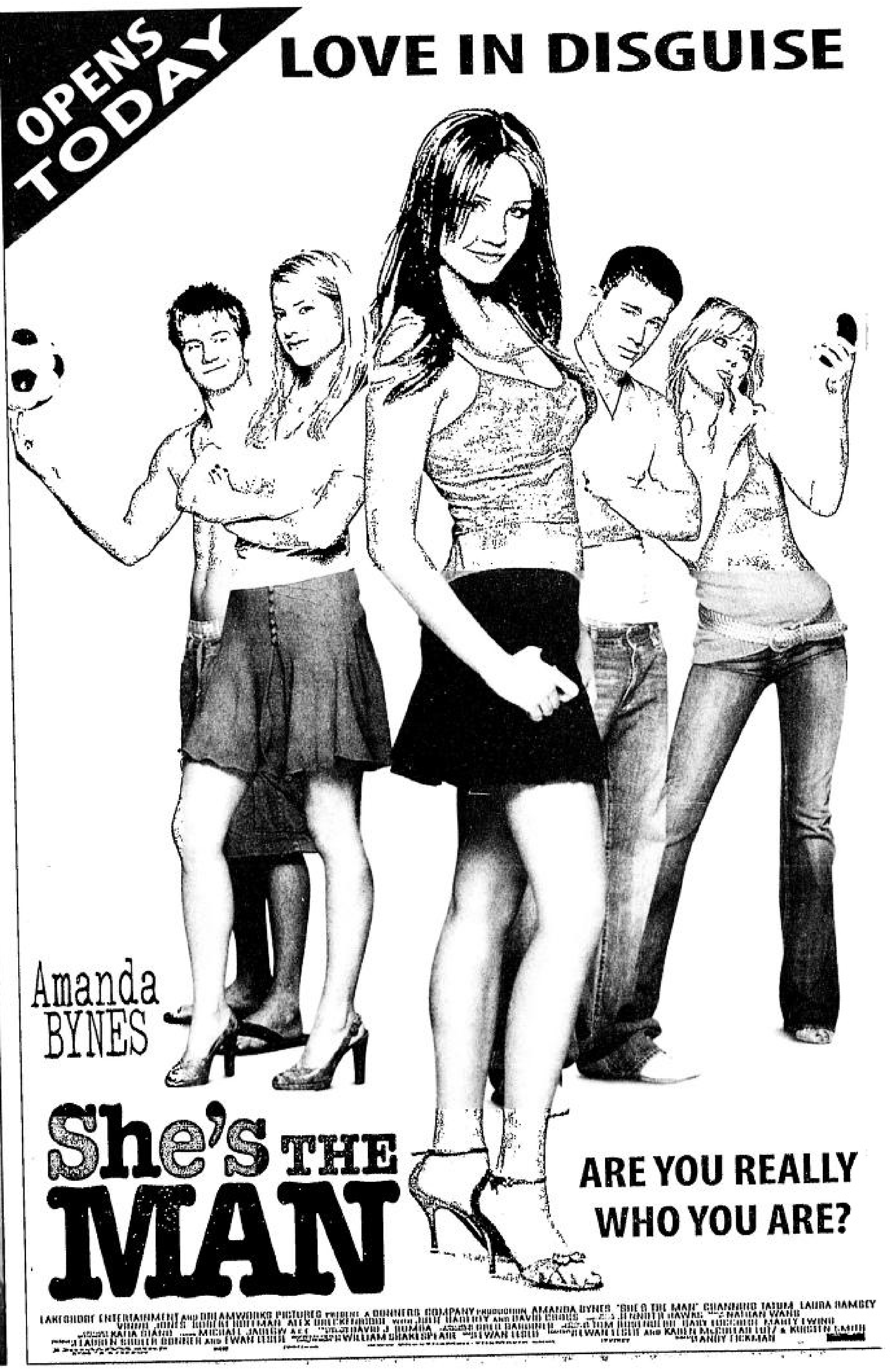
THE FAMILY THAT FIGHTS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER
HOUSE OF FURY
OPENS TODAY
VIVA


OPENS TODAY
LOVE IN DISGUISE
Amanda BYNES
She's THE MAN
ARE YOU REALLY WHO YOU ARE?

'Failure to Launch' takes off in US, Canada

LOS ANGELES—"FAILure to Launch," a romantic comedy from Paramount starring Matthew McConaughey and Sarah Jessica Parker, took off at theaters, debuting as the top weekend movie with $24.6 million.

Two remakes opened in second and third place. Disney's family flick "The Shaggy Dog," starring Tim Allen, was No. 2 with $16 million, and Fox Searchlight's horror tale "The Hills Have Eyes" was No. 3 with $15.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Here are estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. official trackers:

1) "Failure to Launch," $24.6M; 2) "The Shaggy Dog," $16M; 3) "The Hills Have Eyes," $15.5M; 4) "16 Blocks," $7.3M; 5) "Tyler Perry's Madea's Family Reunion," $5.8M; 6) "Eight Below," $5.4M; 7) "Aquamarine," $3.65M; 8) (tie) "The Pink Panther" and "Ultraviolet," $3.6M; 10) "Date Movie," $2.5M. *AP*

WINNER Jackie Rice (left) and Iwa Moto

Marky ...

From page A2-1

lost the title to arch rival Gian Carlos of Iloilo, when one of his (Marky's) shoes came off during a crucial dance number in the final night of "StarStruck: The Nationwide Invasion" at the Marikina Sports Complex.

For the segment where the "StarStruck" finalists were to showcase their skills, Marky—an Architecture student at the St. Louis University here—chose to dance while Gian decided to sing with a band and play the guitar.

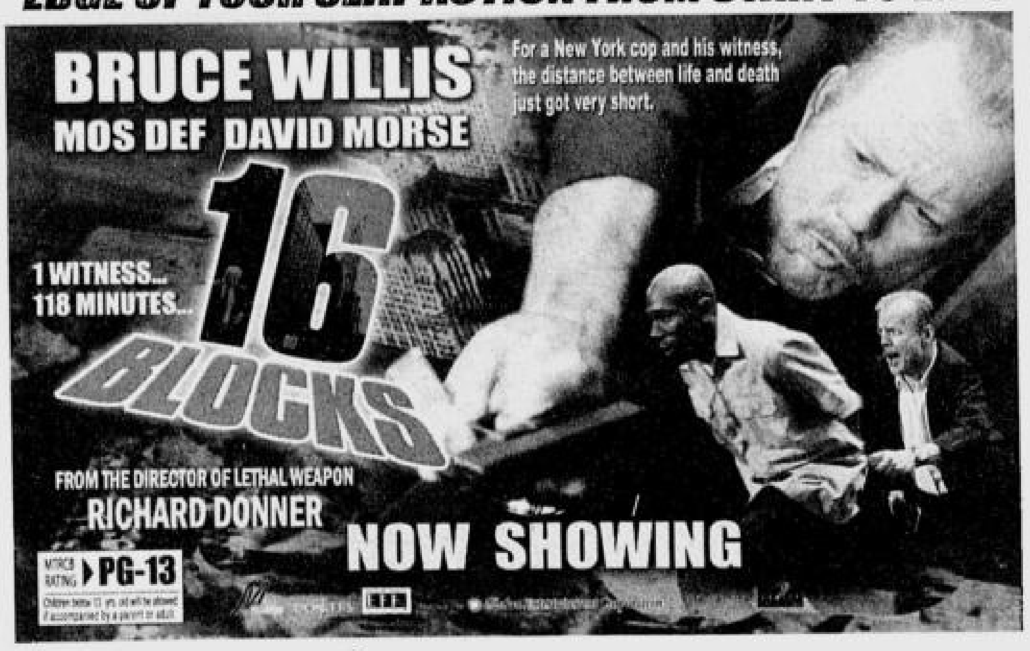
Because he was concentrating on his "difficult and fast" dance steps, Marky said, he did not notice that his shoelaces had unraveled. "There was no way I could pick up the shoe and wear it again. So I just kept dancing."

The incident, it turned out, worked in Marky's favor. Actress and juror Lorna Tolentino described him as a "natural entertainer" and commended him for "still pulling it off." Darling de Jesus, GMA 7 assistant vice president for talk and variety and "StarStruck" juror, said: "If Mark Herras is our Bad Boy of the Dance Floor, you, Marky, are our Dancing Prince."

Herras and Jennylyn Mercado were the winners of the first "StarStruck" talent search in 2004.

Filipino-American Jackie Rice of Olongapo City beat Iwa Moto of Las Piñas to the title Ultimate Female Survivor. The winners each brought home P2-million worth of exclusive management contract and P1 million cash. Marky, as Sole Survivor, also won among others a house and lot worth P2.5 million. *With reports from Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

#1 MOVIE OF THE WEEK!
EDGE OF YOUR SEAT ACTION FROM START TO END.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1 (DOLBY)	V FOR VENDETTA R13
2 (DOLBY)	SHAGGY DOG GP
3 (DOLBY)	HOSTEL R18
4 (DOLBY)	SHE'S THE MAN

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	16 BLOCKS / HOSTEL PG13 / R18

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1 (DDS)	HOUSE OF FURY
2 (SDDS)	FINAL DESTINATION
3 (DTS)	DATE MOVIE
4 GOLD (DTS)	HOSTEL
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SHE'S THE MAN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SHAGGY DOG
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	V FOR VENDETTA
8	FEARLESS
9	CLOSE TO YOU
10	16 BLOCKS

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tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	SHAGGY DOG
2 (DOLBY)	V FOR VENDETTA
3 (DOLBY)	SHE'S THE MAN
4 (DOLBY)	HOSTEL

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	THE NEW WORLD
2 (DTS)	AEON FLUX
3 (DOLBY)	V FOR VENDETTA
4	HOSTEL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146

1	V FOR VENDETTA
2 (DOLBY)	HOSTEL
3 (DTS)	AEON FLUX
4	

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	FEARLESS
2	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
3 (DOLBY)	AEON FLUX

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	TIGER BLADE
2	YOURS MINE & OURS
3 (DOLBY)	FEARLESS
4 (DTS)	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	HOSTEL
2	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 (DOLBY)	DATE MOVIE / SYRIANA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)

1	FEARLESS
2	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	16 BLOCKS
2	V FOR VENDETTA
3	SHAGGY DOG
4	HOSTEL

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	SHAGGY DOG
2 (DOLBY)	HOSTEL
3 (DOLBY)	V FOR VENDETTA
4 (DOLBY)	RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	V FOR VENDETTA
2	HOUSE OF FURY
3	SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN
4	FEARLESS
5	HOSTEL

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3	HOSTEL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	CLOSED FORE RENOVATION
5	HOUSE OF FURY

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Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

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2	PLEASE CALL
3	PLEASE CALL
4	PLEASE CALL

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433994

1	FEARLESS
2	MURDER
3	V FOR VENDETTA
4	HOSTEL

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	HOSTEL
2	V FOR VENDETTA
3	SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	V FOR VENDETTA
2	HOSTEL

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3025

1	FEARLESS
2	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3	BLOODRAYNE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	V FOR VENDETTA
2	HOSTEL
3 (DTS EX)	AEON FLUX
4	LAST HOLIDAY

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

FEARLESS
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
RESERVED
RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
4 (DTS)	RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2	FEARLESS
3 (DOLBY)	SYRIANA
4 (DTS)	LAST HOLIDAY

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OPENING TODAY

She's the Man

Stars Amanda Bynes, Channing Tatum, Laura Ramsey
Directed by Andy Fickman

SHAKESPEARE'S "Twelfth Night" is turned into a teen romantic comedy. A teenage girl (Bynes) poses as her brother, an aspiring musician who escapes to London for two weeks. The gender-bending girl, however, falls for her hunky roommate. To make matters worse, a campus beauty is smitten with her in drag! Joshua Tyler of Cinemablend.com disapproves: "Bynes isn't so much angsty as she is cutesy. Shakespeare shouldn't come with warm cuddly fuzzies and a cute button nose." Bullz-eye.com opines that "'tweeners would probably dig it, but if they were smart, they'd rent '10 Things I Hate About You' (based on Shakespeare's 'The Taming of the Shrew') instead."

V for Vendetta

Stars Hugo Weaving, Natalie Portman, John Hurt, Stephen Rea
Directed by James McTeigue

BASED on a comic book and set in a totalitarian future, this sci-fi thriller features a masked rebel-terrorist named V (Weaving) as hero. He rescues a damsel in distress (Portman), who turns out to be a worthy successor to his crusade. Leslie Felperin of Variety thinks "the visually striking" film "feels flat as a storyboard… It suffers from… indigestible dialogue, pacing difficulties and too much pseudo-philosophical info." John DeFore of The Hollywood Reporter raves, "[It's] entertaining and solidly crafted… [and] takes pains to tie its reality to our own." Kurt Loder of MTV hails "its elegantly constructed plot and unusual moral ambiguity … a fascinating picture, dark and exciting."

Hostel

Stars Jay Hernandez, Derek Richardson, Eythor Gudjonsson
Directed by Eli Roth

AMERICAN backpackers aiming for cheap thrills and easy sex on their Eastern European holiday become pawns in a sick, demented world ruled by sadists. ***(Review on page A2/5.)***

The Shaggy Dog

Stars Tim Allen, Kristin Davis, Danny Glover, Robert Downey Jr.
Directed by Brian Robbins

A REMAKE of the 1959 family classic, this updated version's titular hero is a workaholic lawyer who turns into man's best friend after being bitten by a 300-year-old Tibetan sheepdog. From the canine perspective, he soon realizes how he has neglected his loved ones. Nick Schager of Slate magazine.com says: "Peta members may take to this movie. Everyone else over the age of 10, however, [may think this is a] stinker, a lazy remake." Luke Sader of The Hollywood Reporter disagrees: "[It's] a fast-moving comedy that manages to sail past many of the clichés usually found in this genre." Justin Chang of Variety dismisses it as "[the] latest mutation of a franchise that Disney should have had spayed or neutered years ago."

House of Fury

Stars Anthony Wong, Daniel Wu, Stephen Fung, Gillian Chung
Directed by Stephen Fung

WITH Hong Kong heartthrob Fung as director and international superstar Jackie Chan as executive producer, this slugfest centers on a cranky herbal shop owner who turns out to be a secret spy. After he is kidnapped, his children learn the truth and must follow in his footsteps. Think of the animated flick "The Incredibles" as a family of chopsocky champs instead. Andrew Sun of The Hollywood Reporter concurs: "[It's] a domestic comedy with martial arts… A neo-retro kung-fu flick that falls short of its punches." Lovehkfilm.com commends it "for decent pacing and an abundance of fun fighting that compensates for spotty acting, obvious direction and a ridiculous paper-thin premise. A dopey action comedy, but it's got enough fighting panache, genial humor and fun star turns."

Johnnie To's Breaking News

Stars Richie Jen, Kelly Chen, Nick Cheung
Directed by Johnnie To

AN OFFICIAL selection at the Cannes Film Festival in 2004, this "extended cat-and-mouse chase" between cunning cops and charming robbers dares to say that "good guys are not at all different from the bad" and satirizes media's hunger for the spectacle of crime. Manohla Dargis of the New York Times raves that To, with the help of his actors and cinematographer, "puts on a great show." Chris Barsanti of filmcritic.com opines that it's "strictly genre but still quite inventive… Smart and sly, [it] shows that genre doesn't have to mean predictable." Bryan Walsh of Time Asia comments that it "breathes new life to an old-style Hong Kong action movie… Think 'Die Hard' but written by Marshall McLuhan… a ballistic reminder when HK's kinetic cinema was rewriting the language of film."

A maniacal …

From page A2-5

boring for these madmen. Witnessing them commit their atrocities can make any viewer feel like throwing up, or at least feel dirty all over.

The film will be shown only at cinemas that allow R-18 films, so disturbing scenes and nude shots are untouched. The bloodletting sequences are convincingly done. The buildup, however, is slow, and certain scenes linger too much on body parts getting mangled.

As a blood-and-guts showcase, "Hostel" overpowers its small character moments, leaving very little to remember about the protagonists. It does repeatedly show how anyone—even a big gang of street kids, mostly aged below 10—is capable of violence, given the right (or wrong) impetus.

And when the movie ultimately and unsurprisingly transforms one character into a violent, vengeful mess, we feel nothing. We leave the theater and forget about the whole sordid experience; in this case, that may be a good thing.

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THE PODIUM
V FOR VENDETTA
12:10 FS / 12:35 MF / 03:20
06:05 / 08:20 LFS
08:50 LMF / 11:05 END
SHAGGY DOG
02:00 FS / 02:25 MF / 04:035
06:45 / 08:25 LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:40 END

SM MEGACINEMA
1 V FOR VENDETTA
10:30FS / 11:00 MF / 01:45
04:30/ 07:15 / 09:30LFS /
09:55 LMF / 12:10 END
2 HOUSEE OF FURY
3 FEARLESS
4 RESERVED
5 THE DARK
6 SHAGGY DOG
7 BREAKING NEWS
8 SHE'S THE MAN
9 16 BLOCKS
10 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11 CASANOVA
12 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 16 BLOCKS
3 HOUSE OF FURY
4 RESERVED
5 SHAGGY DOG
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 FINAL DESTINATION 3
8 FEARLESS

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 AEON FLUX
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 CASANOVA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 BREAKING NEWS
2 UNDERCLASS MAN
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 16 BLOCKS
5 FINAL DESTINATION 3
6 FEARLESS
7 V FOR VENDETTA
8 SHAGGY DOG
9 SHE'S THE MAN
10 CLOSE TO YOU
11 THE DARK
12 HOUSE OF FURY

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 16 BLOCKS
4 SHE'S THE MAN
5 FEARLESS
6 THE DARK
7 FINAL DESTINATION 3
8 HOUSE OF FURY
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 CASANOVA

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 HAGGY DOG
3 THE DARK
4 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 16 BLOCKS
5 HOUSE OF FURY
6 SHE'S THE MAN

SM CITY MANILA
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 UNDERCLASS MAN
4 FEARLESS
5 SHAGGY DOG
6 16 BLOCKS
7 BREAKING NEWS
8 HOUSE OF FURY
9 THE DARK
10 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
11 CLOSE TO YOU
12 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 FEARLESS
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 16 BLOCKS
5 HOUSE OF FURY
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 CASANOVA
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 THE DARK
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 16 BLOCKS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 THE DARK

SM CITY SUCAT
1 SHAGGY DOG
2 V FOR VENDETTA
3 16 BLOCKS
4 CLOSE TO YOU

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BREAKING NEWS
HOUSE OF FURY
SHE'S THE MAN
THE SHAGGY DOG
V FOR VENDETTA

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 NEW WORLD
2 CASANOVA
3 YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 V FOR VENDETTA

SM CITY MARILAO
1 CASANOVA
2 SYRIANA
3 16 BLOCKS
4 YOURS, MINE & OURS

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 PRIME
2 SYRIANA
3 FEARLESS
4 YOURS, MINE & OURS

SM CITY BACOOR
1 THE DARK
2 FEARLESS
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 16 BLOCKS
5 FINAL DESTINATION 3
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 SHAGGY DOG
8 SHE'S THE MAN

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 LAST HOLIDAY
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 AEON FLUX
4 V FOR VENDETTA

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 16 BLOCKS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 FEARLESS
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 UNDERCLASS MAN

SM CITY LUCENA
1 FEARLESS
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 SAW 2
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

SM CITY MOLINO
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 CASANOVA
3 FEARLESS
4 TIGER BLADE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
12:00FS / 12:18 / 02:36
04:54 / 07: 12 / 09:18 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:35 END
2 V FOR VENDETTA
11:15FS / 11:30 MF
02:00 / 04:30
07:00 / 09:21 LFS /
09:30 LMF / 11:50 END
3 NEW WORLD .
11:15FS / 11:30 MF
02:00 / 04:30
07:00 / 09:20 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:50 END
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
5 GOAL
6 16 BLOCKS
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 FEARLESS

SM CITY ILOILO
1 CASANOVA
2 RESERVED
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 FEARLESS
5 V FOR VENDETTA
6 PROOF
7 RESERVED
8 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY DAVAO
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 FEARLESS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 FEARLESS
5 16 BLOCKS
6 AEON FLUX

SM CITY CAGAYAN
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 PINK PANTHER
3 SYRIANA
4 YOURS, MINE & OURS

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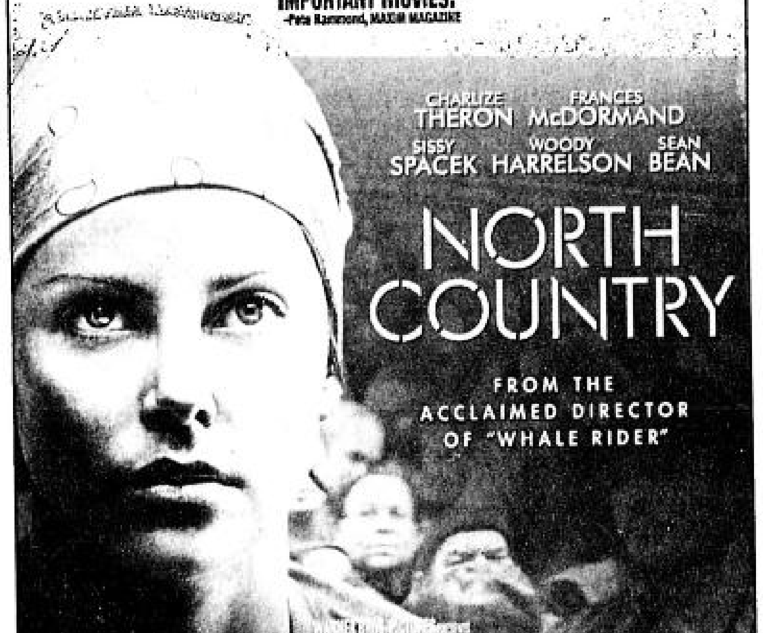

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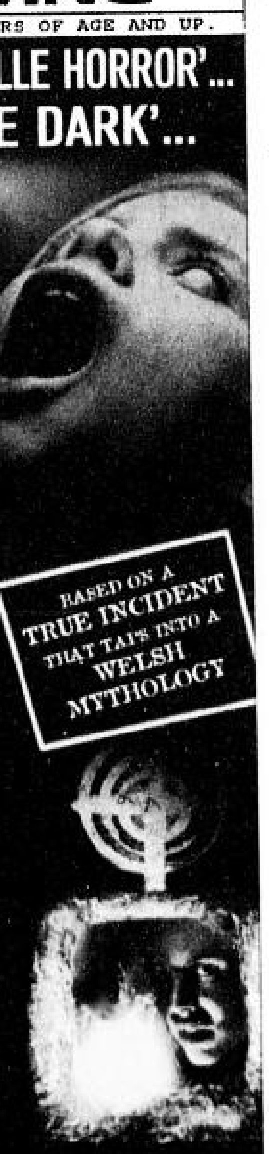
A GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY, A TRAGEDY-HAUNTED HOUSE ON THE CLIFFS OF WALES AND A SMALL TOWN'S SECRET HISTORY

In an attempt to pull her family together, New Yorker Adele Tullian travels with her daughter Sarah to Anglesey, Wales in the U.K. to visit her contractor father - James Tullian.

The morning after they arrive, Sarah mysteriously vanishes. While the parents desperately search for Sarah, a guilt-ridden Adele is haunted by visions of her daughter as though she is trapped somewhere inside the haunted house. Adele soon learns of an ancient local legend of a place called The Dark - *an ethereal land of the dead* - and she becomes convinced that Sarah is communicating to her from The Dark.

Not long after Sarah disappears, Adele and James find themselves involved with a girl who not only bears a striking resemblance to their missing daughter, but reveals that she has retuned from the dead to inform them on how to get Sarah back. They must follow the rule: 'one of the living, for one of the dead. The living must be sacrificed so that the dead can return. Townsfolk suspect that the Tullians are succumbing to the legacy of madness and murder that overwhelmed the house's previous tenants.

BASED ON A TRUE INCIDENT THAT TAPS INTO A WELSH MYTHOLOGY
THE DARK
SEAN BEAN MARIA BELLO



Maniacal tourist trap

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

"HOSTEL" TAKES SADISTIC pleasure in making one wince from its excessively violent imagery while still hooked onto its sick and twisted conceits. Produced by gore-fiend Quentin Tarantino and directed by newcomer Eli Roth, the blood-soaked horror movie is a prime example of filmmaking that exploits extreme shock tactics to keep viewers glued to their seats, waiting for what happens next. But morbid fascination can only get a movie so far.

Its voyeuristic storytelling follows a hedonistic, backpacking trio's adventures in Eastern Europe. Paxton (Jay Hernandez), Josh (Derek Richardson) and Oli (Eythor Gudjonsson) are lured into a Slovakian hostel that promises top-notch sex, drugs and booze. Once there, they quickly acclimate with fellow fun-loving locals. But their vacation is cut short when the young men are separately abducted and put through a crash course on being torture victims.

The idea that a secret establishment caters to psychos allowed to hurt and kill other human beings within the confines of its disgusting dark rooms is indeed frightening. That fear becomes realized and amplified as the tourist characters are graphically and slowly disfigured by eager, bloodthirsty customers who can afford $25,000 per session! It seems that conventional entertainment has become utterly

MANIACAL/ A2-4

ELI Roth

'Hostel' is a blood-soaked horror movie that exploits extreme shock tactics

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2	V FOR VENDETTA	11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:00	R-13
3	SHE'S THE MAN		
4	HOSTEL	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	R-18

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① V FOR VENDETTA
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② SHAGGY DOG
MTRCB GP
12.20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10.00 LMF

③ HOSTEL
MTRCB. R-18
12:40, 3:00, 5:20

④ SHE'S THE MAN
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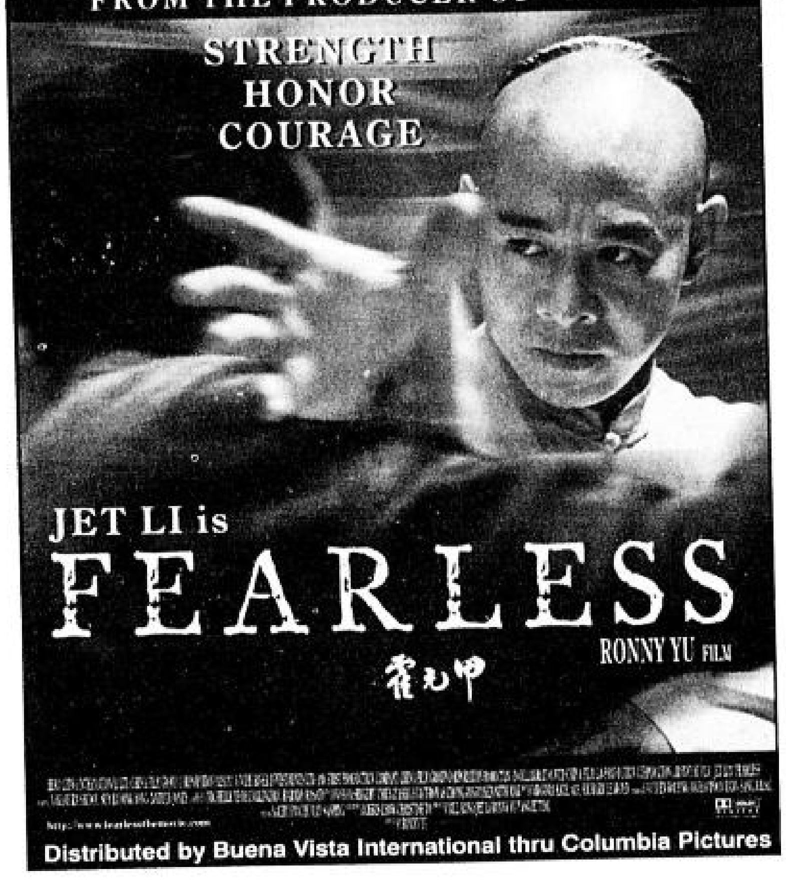

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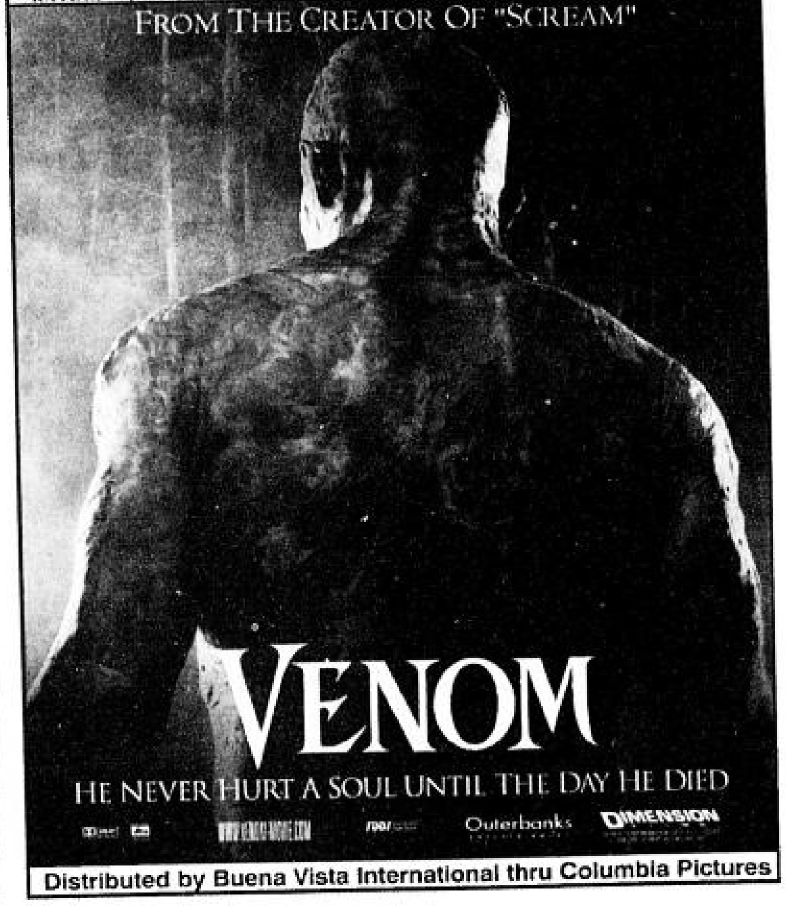
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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 HOUSE OF FURY	2 V FOR VENDETTA	3 HOSTEL	4 SHE'S THE MAN
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SHAGGY DOG	2 HOSTEL	3 THX V FOR VENDETTA GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 YOURS, MINE & OURS	5 16 BLOCKS	6 SHE'S THE MAN	7 DATE MOVIE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 16 BLOCKS	2 V FOR VENDETTA		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SHE'S THE MAN GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX V FOR VENDETTA GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 16 BLOCKS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DATE MOVIE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HOSTEL GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX V FOR VENDETTA	2 SHE'S THE MAN		
	3 SHAGGY DOG	4 YOURS, MINE & OURS	5 HOSTEL	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 V FOR VENDETTA	2 HOSTEL	3 PRIDE & PREJUDICE	4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 V FOR VENDETTA	2 HOSTEL		
	3 HOUSE OF FURY	4 SHE'S THE MAN	5 SHAGGY DOG	

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Lessons learned on 'PBB'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE CAN'T SUMMON UP THE INterest to watch "Pinoy Big Brother" on a regular basis, but we do peek into the celebrity challenge from time to time. Aside from the usual games, *tampuhan*, flirtation and screaming bouts. what are the more substantial things happening on the show?

Well, it tries to teach its housemates—and, empathetically, its viewers—how to be honest, how to communicate to resolve spats, how to get to like very different types of people, and how to work together to achieve a common goal.

On the minus side, the housemates agree to give up their freedom and privacy for two months, and follow everything that the show's disembodied Big Brother tells them.

Instead of developing a sense of self, these requirements tend to turn the "housemates" into cogs and ciphers.

Worse, the show's "aquarium" or "ant farm" format encourages viewers' peeping-tom and gossip mentality.

On the other hand, the show has more plus points: The inclusion of the "differently abled" **Rudy Fernandez** made viewers more aware of the needs of people like him. Even better, they have been made to realize that disabled people have great strengths in other areas of their lives and should be admired rather than pitied.

Rustom Padilla's recent "gay" confession on the show has also generated a more informed discussion of the so-called Third Sex, gender selection, biases against gays, factors contributing to a predisposition to homosexuality, etc.

Unfortunately, Rustom's coming out has fallen prey to that old buggaboo—gossip. Its positive impact has been blunted by silly detours into "What about his marriage to Carmina?" and "What about his macho brothers?"

We hope that the gossip mentality settles down soon, so that the genuine lessons learned from Rustom's "confession" can still be retrieved. Most significantly, these would include his observation that he needed more love and understanding when he was a kid, and that people should be judged not on the basis of their gender preference, but on what they are.

Rustom could have scored more points if he had also addressed unspoken questions about his shockingly gaunt appearance. Perhaps next time?

TRL Awards

MTV'S fourth annual TRL Awards will air on March 19 at 8 p.m., with replays on March 21 at 9 p.m. and March 25 at 4:30 p.m. "TRL: Total Request Live" is telecast regularly M-TH at noon and 9 p.m. The annual awards honor the people who make "TRL" so dynamic. (Hosted by MTV VJs **Damien Fahey, Vanessa Minnillo** and **Susie Castillo**, the TRL Awards special includes appearances by **Mariah Carey, Bono, Madonna, Kanye West, My Chemical Romance, Fall Out Boy, Ashley Simpson, Amanda Bynes, Jessica Alba, Stephen Colletti**, and a special performance by **Chris Brown. Christina Aguilera** talks about her new album in an exclusive interview.

A Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to **Madonna.** Past recipients include **P. Diddy** and **Eminem.**

And the TRL Awards will also acknowledge **Bono** for his humanitarian efforts with the Most Inspired Artist award.

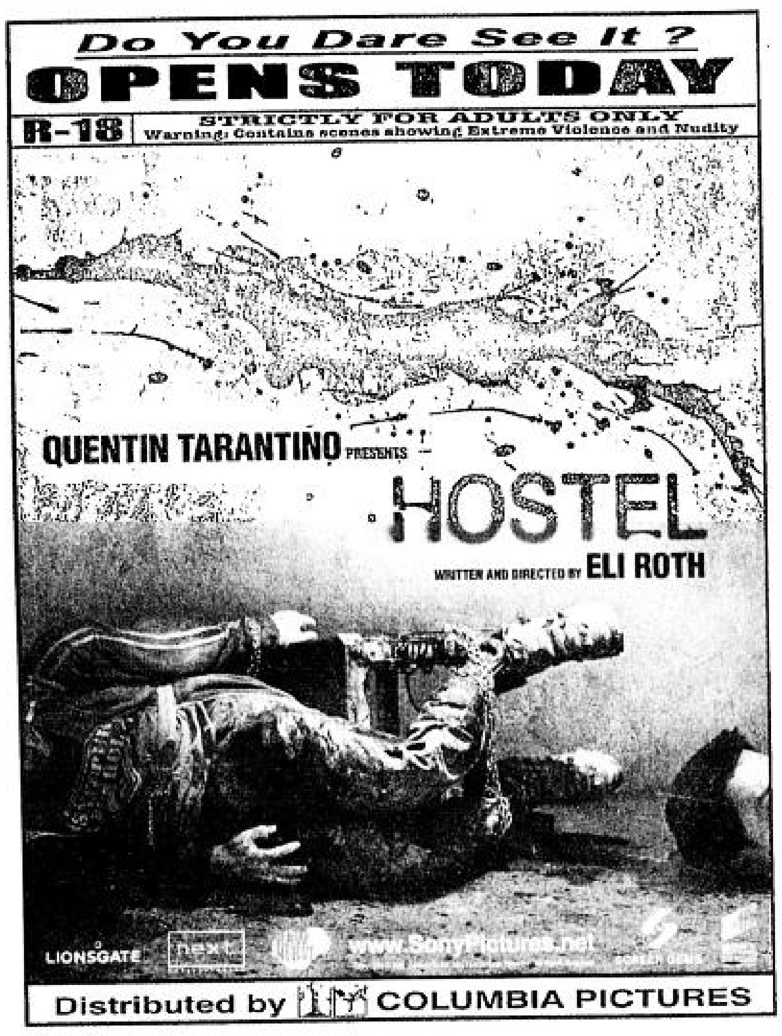
Passion unfurled

A DANCE concert titled "C* CATTitude" will be held at Miriam College at 6 p.m. on March 16. It features the Creative Communication Arts Talent Team dancers of the college.

Also participating are dance groups from schools like Don Bosco and Mapua Makati, plus Company of 1, Flau-uh, MC Pep Squad, ODS CORE, Sayawatha and the UP Street Dancers.

'LazyTown'

LAST March 6, "LazyTown" premiered on the Nickelodeon channel. The new show, aimed at preschoolers, is a spectacular cartoon come to life, and delivers action, comedy and a fresh blast of youthful energy.



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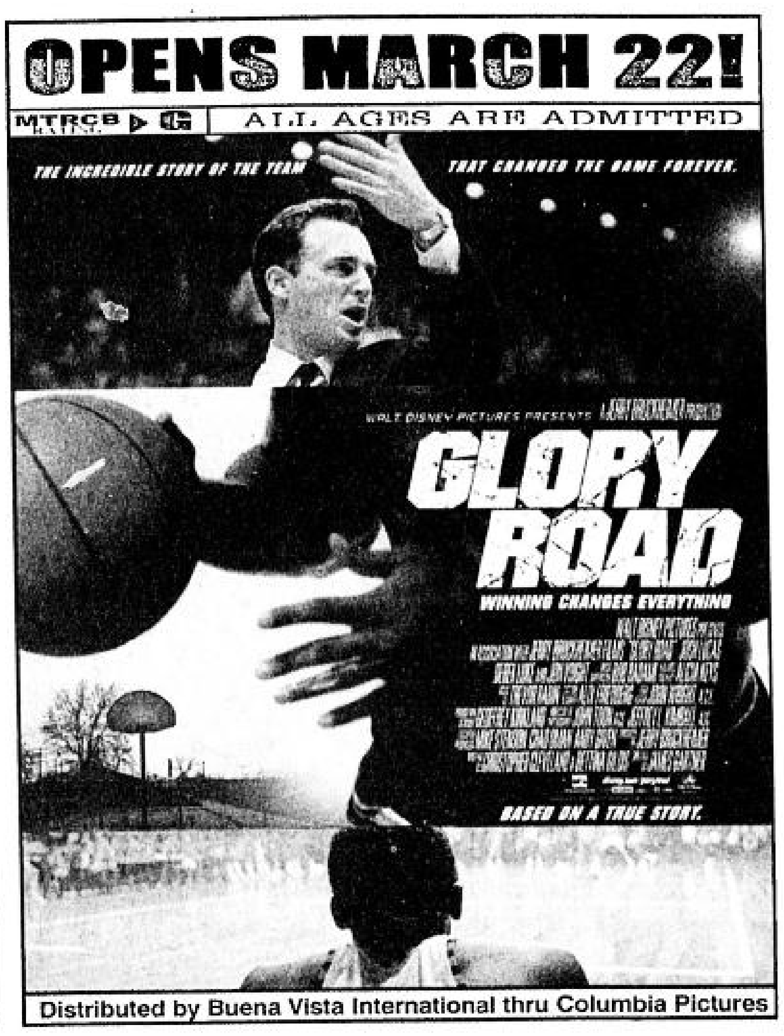

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Barbie Almabis (Mar. 25) Starmall Edsa.

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CHEUNG SUI FAI
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
American Idol
Wed-Thurs-Fri 10pm
ABC Iba Tayo!
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	American Idol			Billboard On Air Insider
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Gulong Ng Palad	Sa Piling Mo	Princess Lulu	Pinoy Big Brother		S.O.C.O.			
AXN		Mondo Magic	Boarding Pass	Next Action Star		The Amazing Race		Cold Squad		Amazon		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	The Amazing Race		CSI (Season 6)		CSI: Miami (Season III)	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinema One		Anak Dalita				Saan Ka Man Naroroon (Movie)				Markova: Comfort Gay			Persona	Lapu-Lapu (9:15 PM)				La Vida Rosa	
Cinemax	All The President's Men (2:20 PM)				Confidence (4:45 PM)				Subzero (6:25 PM)			Batman				Snakehead Terror (10:05PM)			Another 48 Hrs. (11:40PM)
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Crime/Suspense		The Closer		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	I, Detective	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Shawshank Redemption				Bones	
Discovery Channel		Zero Hour		American Chopper		Nile		Great Quakes		Wild Discovery		Hour China		Girl With X-Ray Eyes		A Haunting		Secrets of Megalightning	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon	Buzz on Maggie	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards 2005 Men's Challenge		Mosconi Cup '01		X-Games Files '03		Motorsport Asia	Pool Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Sportscenter Asia	Pool Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Motorsport Asia	LPGA Golf Fields Open in Hawaii 3rd rd				Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Average Joe		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars		Beauty & The Geek		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Marriage Works In Christ	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Faith In Motion	Adventures In Odyssey	EWTN Original Productions	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Defending Life	EWTN Gallery	In The Heart Of The Church	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Catholic Social Teaching	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Carpenter's Shop	Our Father's Plan	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royale Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	La Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace		Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Family Law III		Mystery Woman: Mystery Weekend			Ladies Man	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		Dynasty Behind The Sex, Greed & Manipulation			Sue Thomas F.B. Eye II (10:35PM)		Strong Medicine (11:2PM)
HBO		Stepping Out (3:15 PM)				Catwoman (5:15 PM)				Batman And Robin				Home Fries			Van Helsing		
Hero TV	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Beyblade	Crush Gear Turbo	Angelic Layer	Tokyo Underground	Metal Fighter Miku	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Tokyo Underground	Metal Fighter Miku
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		ME TV		Japan Video Topics		Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Show With David Letterman		Heat		Velocity		X-Men	Street Smarts	Mad TV		That 70s Show	My Name Is Earl	Late Show With David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Primetime Glick	Chappelle Show
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Motto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		Style Star	Life & Style		Intimate Portrait		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
MTV Philippines	Jams	Making the Video: Unpredictable	MTV Hits		The 70's House	Pop Inc.		2006 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Hits	VH1's How the Stars Get Hot		Homecoming	Get Spotted	TRL		Viva La Bam	Laguna Beach	Get Hitch'd	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXILOG	Top 5	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Africa From The Ground Up	Hunter Hunted		Interpol Investigates		Science Times				Wow!		About Asia		[illegible]		Hunter Hunted: Stalked By Sharks		Interpol Investigates	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Talk Ko 'To		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Krusada Kontra Krimen		Bantay OCW With Susan K	Cue Masters
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	Rocket Power	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO	Sarah, The Sweet Princess				Nagmula Sa Lupa				Kasalanan Bang Sambahin Ka				Kahit Ako'y Busabos				Fight Night 5		
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zentrix	The Prince Of Tennis	M/S (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At [illegible]	Irene	Mars	Laugh To Laugh Ang Kulit	Now Na!		News On Q	Balikbayan		Irene	Romance
RPN 9	TV Shopping					Global Window		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Three Wishes		Extreme Make Over		Newswatch Now	Basketball Show	Money Talk	Kerygma
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		SBN Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		[illegible]		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports		Davis Cup 2005 Day 1 Match 2		IBF China Masters 2006 Finals					Phil. [illegible] Pro Tour	Sagupaan	NBA Jam	[illegible]					Sportsdesk	Philippine Open Finals	
Sports Plus				Arena Football Dallas vs. Tampa Bay						NBA Game Lakers @ Sacramento					NBA Game Phoenix @ Seattle				
Star Movies			Baadasssss!			City Slickers				Agent Cody Banks				Force Of Impact			Man On Fire		
Star World		Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		American Idol		Star News Asia	Seinfeld	American Idol		[illegible]		Smallville		Seinfeld	American Idol
Studio 23	Bewitched	Masked Rider Ryuki		Duel Masters		Batman Beyond	Xiaolin Showdown	Spirits	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI (8:20 PM)	Life As We Know It (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		The Men's Room

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

BUSINESS

Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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Strong peso seen as threat

Exporters badly hurt by sharp rise of legal tender

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL EXPORTERS YESTERDAY WARNED THAT A STRENGthening peso poses "a clear and present danger," threatening tens of thousands of jobs as well as small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

In a manifesto addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo, members of the Philippine Exporters Confederation said they had been hit hard by the abrupt rise of the peso from about P55 to the dollar in the third quarter of 2005 to about P51 against the greenback in the past week.

"Exporters have been hurting badly, especially SMEs that use indigenous raw materials and food products," Philexport officials said.

They said some of the businesses might have to fire workers or even close shop.

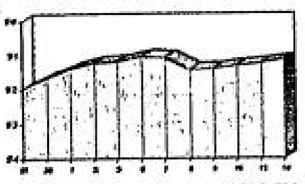
Even large enterprises in the semiconductor, electronics, garments and machine parts industries are losing their competitiveness as their margins are steadily being eroded, they added.

The traders are also renewing their

STRONG/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 51.14 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 14, 2006

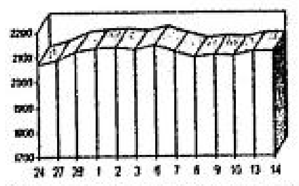
¥ 118.60 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 14, 2006

GOLD: $543.80-544.30

per ounce Hong Kong, March 13, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B7)

Shares close flat

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED FLAT IN sluggish trade as the market entered a consolidation phase, dealers said.

They said investors ignored the results of Monday's Treasury bill auction, which saw interest rates of benchmark government securities falling amid easing political concerns and the

SHARES/ B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

Malacañang scouts for a new site /B3

DTI urges SMEs to go global /B16

But BSP claims appreciating currency good for the economy

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO'S STRONG PERFORMANCE is good for the economy, with the winners seen to outnumber losers, a top Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas official said.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters that whenever the local currency appreciates against the US dollar by P1, this will shave 0.04 percentage points off the country's inflation rate.

"At this point, the net impact is positive," Guinigundo said. "We should take a longer term view of the peso because the peso is an independent law. We have a flexible exchange rate which has a self-correcting mechanism."

Yesterday, the peso closed stronger at 51.14 from Monday's finish of 51.24

BUT BSP/ B3

Prudentialife: Stands stronger to serve more families

In 1978, Prudentialife was established to offer pre-need products that cater to the needs of the Filipino family. Over the years, it steadily grew from offering life, pension and educational plans, expanding its product range in the areas of financial services, memorialization, travel and leisure, real estate and information technology.

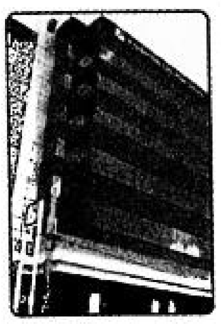
With over P28 Billion in assets and P13.7 Billion in trust fund as of December 2005, Prudentialife continues to provide excellent products and financial services to every Filipino family by utilizing its resources through innovative marketing and excellent customer service.

Through its program of regional branch consolidation nationwide, Prudentialife inaugurated its Central Luzon building, the tallest in Angeles City in 1999. In 2004, a new Prudentialife building opened in Cabanatuan City to serve more families in North-Eastern Luzon covering Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela and Cagayan Valley. Today, the inauguration and blessing of Prudentialife Baguio reinforces the relationship of the company with the people of Northern Luzon from Pangasinan to the Ilocos region. Conveniently located along Assumption Road, the new building is the newest symbol of Prudentialife's strength and stability and its commitment of service.

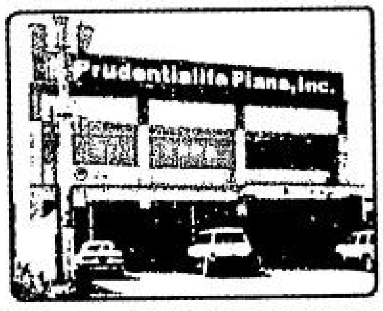
Prudentialife also has its own buildings in Bacolod, Iloilo, Davao, Binan, La Union, Batangas and Palawan which all have become landmarks of service in the community. Another Prudentialife building will soon rise in Cebu City. Recently, Prudentialife acquired a 7-storey building in the center of Guadalupe, Makati City. Also envisioned is a new Prudentialife building at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

While Prudentialife expands its market-reach in the different regions, it continues to provide more innovative products for the Filipino family.

Recently, Prudentialife has ventured into mutual funds and unit investment trust funds to help families for a wider choice of financial investment. Also, Prudentialife has entered into the health-care services industry with PrudentialifeCare offering comprehensive healthcare and medical savings benefits program. With a new building up and new products and services, Prudentialife is poised to face the present challenges of the times and provide a better quality of life to more Filipino families.



1999: Angeles City



2004: Cabanatuan City

Prudentialife Baguio

Moving up towards a brighter tomorrow

Today, Prudentialife inaugurates its new building in Baguio City along Assumption Road. This reinforces our commitment to serve and bring our products and services closer to more families. We are thankful for the continuing support and trust of the employees, sales force, planholders and the people from Pangasinan to the Ilocos region. Through Prudentialife Baguio, we are determined even more to help fulfill the dreams of every family for a better tomorrow.

Prudentialife Building, Assumption Road, Baguio City.

Sharing our blessings with Baguio General Hospital Hematology, Oncology & Pediatrics Wards

Prudentialife
www.prudentialife.com

British company to put up ₱1.5-B ethanol plant

Scheduled to start operations next year

By Abigail L. Ho

BRITISH FIRM BRONZEOAK LTD., through local unit Bronzeoak Philippines, will spend P1.5 billion to construct a dedicated ethanol plant in Southern Bukidnon.

In an interview with reporters, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said the company had already purchased a 24-hectare lot in Brgy. Labuagon, Kidawe, Southern Bukidnon in preparation for the plant's construction.

The plant, he said, would have a capacity of 150,000 liters a day. This is bigger than the plant being constructed by Bronzeoak, in partnership with the National Development Corp., in San Carlos, Negros Occidental.

He said this was because the Bukidnon plant, under Bronzeoak's Southern Bukidnon Bioethanol Inc., would be a dedicated ethanol production plant and not a co-generation facility like the San Carlos plant.

The San Carlos Bio-Energy Inc. (SCBI) plant is an integrated facility that will be able to produce some 100,000 liters of bio-ethanol a day in its distillery plant.

It will also have a cane milling plant with a throughput capacity of 1,500 metric tons of cane daily, as well as a co-generation power plant that will produce around 9 megawatts (MW) of power, of which 4 MW will be sold to the grid.

It will start commercial operations next year.

Zubiri said Bronzeoak was planning to break ground for the Bukidnon project in June.

The new plant should not take too long to design and construct, he said, as Bronzeoak already had a blueprint for this type of plant.

Zubiri said the plant would need 8,000 hectares of sugar cane to ensure a sustainable supply of raw materials.

The sugar cane would be acquired from Dangcagan, Kitaotao, Kadingilan, Damulog and Carmen in Bukidnon as well as from nearby North Cotabato, he said.

He said the plant would be situated relatively far from sugar plants "so as not to compete with sugar areas for raw materials."

Bronzeoak will put up the plant whether or not the pending biofuels bill, which would provide fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to industry players, is passed, he said.

CEBU PACIFIC'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY
Cebu Pacific's brand-new A319 aircraft was inaugurated by President Macapagal-Arroyo during the airline's 10th anniversary celebration held last week. Cebu Pacific president Lance Gokongwei said the airline's refleeting program signifies its commitment to help the government in its efforts to boost travel and tourism in the country. With the President during the inauguration are (from left) John Gokongwei Jr., chair emeritus of JG Summit Holdings Inc.; CebuPac president Lance Gokongwei and Bong Mojica, Cebu Pacific general manager.

SBMA, CDC tapped to handle investment applications

INVESTORS WILL HAVE EASIER TIME TO LOcate in the economic zones in the Subic free port and Clark field as their managing agencies have been given the authority to process locators' registration with the Board of Investments.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said his department yesterday signed with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Clark Development Corp. a memorandum of understanding that deputized the SBMA and CDC to receive and evaluate applications for BOI incentives.

Favila said the move was part of efforts to make the environment friendlier to business since the "enhanced registration system" was more convenient for companies who no longer have to shuttle between Subic or Clark and the BOI offices in Makati City.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said the MOU was aimed at providing seamless investment processing following the issuance of Executive Order No. 478 that placed SBMA and CDC under the supervision of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Hernandez, who is BOI managing head, said representatives of SBMA and CDC would be trained to harmonize application forms, documentary requirements and evaluation procedures of the BOI.

Under the agreement, SBMA and CDC would evaluate applications within a day of receipt and submit these the following day to the BOI which has the final say.

"Although the agencies are deputized, BOI would continue to exercise supervision and monitoring of BOI-registered enterprises," Hernandez said.

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KING JAMES
AUCTION CALENDAR
SCRAP AUCTION TOMORROW
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATE: MARCH 15, 2006, 9AM-5PM
LOCATION: GEN. LUIS COR., P. JACINTO ST., BAGBAGUIN, CALOOCAN CITY (MALINTA EXIT)
AUCTION DATE: MARCH 16, 2006 THURSDAY 10:30 AM
METAL / WOOD / COPPER WIRES
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DOF probes unremitted agri taxes

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS SEEKING the assistance of local government units in the inquiry on tax delinquency involving agriculture businesses, said to result in huge revenue losses for the government.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said that officials from the DOF and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, its attached agency, are trying to set meetings with ranking LGU officials and enlist their aid in pinning down tax cheats.

Teves said LGUs could provide the necessary tax-related information, such as profitability of enterprises.

"We hope to get the participation of LGUs for the possibility of expanding the taxpayers' base, especially in the agriculture sector," Teves told reporters at the sidelines of the tax campaign of the Makati BIR office.

Revenue authorities have said that while the agriculture sector makes about a fifth of the country's economy, enterprises belonging to the sector have not been significant contributors to the national government's tax collection.

Aside form the fact that the sector enjoys numerous tax incentives, the suspected delinquency of some firms in paying taxes is said to result in low tax collection.

The finance chief said the DOF and the BIR are interested in the tax-compliance records of businesses in the sugar industry. Teves said revenue offices have received reports that there had been massive under-declaration of income by sugar milling companies.

He said the under-declaration usually arise from the bloating of the amount of allowances provided to sugar planters. The allowances are then deducted from the sugar millers' taxable income.

Another problem facing the government is the perceived failure of some sugar traders to pay the value-added tax.

But BSP . . .

From page B1

against the greenback.

The peso's appreciation would be bad news for exporters and overseas Filipino workers for now. But Guinigundo said the local currency would eventually correct itself as export receipts, fresh foreign investments and remittances shrink.

But when it depreciates, export receipts would again surge and lift the currency anew, he stressed.

"It's a never-ending cycle of ups and downs because we have a flexible exchange rate unlike the Hong Kong or Singapore dollar," Guinigundo said.

He added that the Philippines' monetary management called for the use of inflation-targeting rather than exchange rate-targeting.

"Who gets hit when inflation is high? Everybody, whether you're an exporter or non-exporter," Guinigundo said.

It may be true that when the peso depreciates, a consumer may get P56, rather than P50, for every US dollar. But the same consumer will have to pay a higher fare whenever he rides a jeepney or a taxi, Guinigundo said.

Aside from its beneficial effect on inflation, Guinigundo said a strong peso would also greatly help the government with its debt servicing.

Also, a strong peso, would generate a bullish sentiment which, in turn, would encourage investors to infuse more money into the domestic economy.

Strong . . .

From page B1

lobby for urgent reforms and institutional support from government to facilitate export growth.

During the 2005 National Export Congress held last August, industry leaders came out with measures that would help the sector. These include substantial funding for export promotions, better access to credit for SMEs, amendment of the Customs Brokers Act, upgrading of strategic infrastructure, including highways and ports, lowering the cost of electricity, and cutting red tape in the processing of business-related papers.

"We urge the government to adjust economic policies to balance the interests of other segments of the economy with the survival of the exporters and the families of million overseas workers who contribute up to (65 percent) of the total value of goods and services produced by Filipinos yearly," Philexport said.

Last week, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry expressed the same concerns, saying the government must intervene to control foreign exchange rate fluctuations and avoid "dislocations in the economy."

Shares . . .

From page B1

government's improving fiscal performance.

The composite index slipped 0.77 points to 2,120.99 after trading between 2,109.34 and 2,122.10. The broader all-shares index retreated 0.27 points to 1,028.64.

Volume reached 420.7 million shares worth P1.25 billion ($24.5 million). Gainers narrowly edged out losers 36 to 34, while 62 stocks were unchanged.

The peso averaged at 51.22 in mid-day trade. *AFP*

Malacañang scouts for a new site

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE RAMOS ERA PLAN TO TRANSFER Malacañang to Clark has been dusted off by the Arroyo administration in the wake of continuing moves to overthrow Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to the grapevine, a team from the Bases Conversion and Development Authority is visiting Clark this weekend to inspect the possible future seat of government.

During his presidency, Fidel Ramos created a commission to study the relocation of Malacañang Palace, whose century-old location amid a warren of narrow, congested streets and an overflowing putrid river has become a traffic and security nightmare.

After Ramos briefly considered Fort Bonifacio in Taguig, he instead chose the sprawling former US air base in Pampanga, with its world-class infrastructure and foreign investor accessibility, to be the new political seat for the 21st century Philippines.

The renewed interest in Clark, ironically, comes in the wake of a preliminary offer from Ortigas and Co. to convert possibly half of the 178-hectare Camp Aguinaldo, which the Spanish-Filipino family donated for military use during the Commonwealth years, into a new Malacañang.

In return, Ortigas and Co. proposes to take back the remaining portion of Camp Aguinaldo, offering to swap a 250-plus hectare property in the Tanay area for the Logistics Command and other military uses.

Despite his opposition sentiments, Ortigas president Rex Drilon II has met with BCDA president Narciso Abaya, and was trying to also see Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, to pitch the idea.

Between Clark and Aguinaldo, Aguinaldo carries more political gravitas because of its accessibility. Symbolically, it grounds the proposed presidential palace to the people power origins of the Edsa I and Edsa II governments.

Should the swap push through, the Santolan side of Camp Aguinaldo could be made as wide as Katipunan Avenue on the Corinthian Gardens side.

One unlikely enthusiastic supporter is former Batangas Gov. J. Antonio Leviste, the Muslim husband of oppositionist Loren Legarda.

Leviste, in a stunning Supreme Court reversal, won back the undeveloped half of the White Plains Road behind Camp Aguinaldo and has been trying for some time now to swap the property with either Camp Aguinaldo or the Quezon City government site.

Mike's squabbling relations

AFTER Bomboy and Linggoy Araneta, another group of relatives is giving Mike Arroyo a new headache.

This time, it is his nephew and La Vista neighbor, stockbroker Jose Tuason Quimson, who is being accused by another cousin of having illegally sold a valuable piece of Sta. Mesa property.

A Sogo Hotel is now being built on the disputed 4,800-square-meter property between SM Centerpoint and the light rail station, apparently without the consent of one of the listed property owners, Concepcion Beatrice Quimson-del Rosario.

According to the grapevine, Quimson-del Rosario owns 1/15, or 320 square meters, of the property, which she and her cousins inherited from their Tuason mothers.

Heard through the grapevine

TERESITA Sy and GSIS's Winston Garcia were scheduled to meet yesterday afternoon to discuss Garcia's proposal to buy out the Sy block in the contested Equitable PCIBank for a gravity-defying P95 a share.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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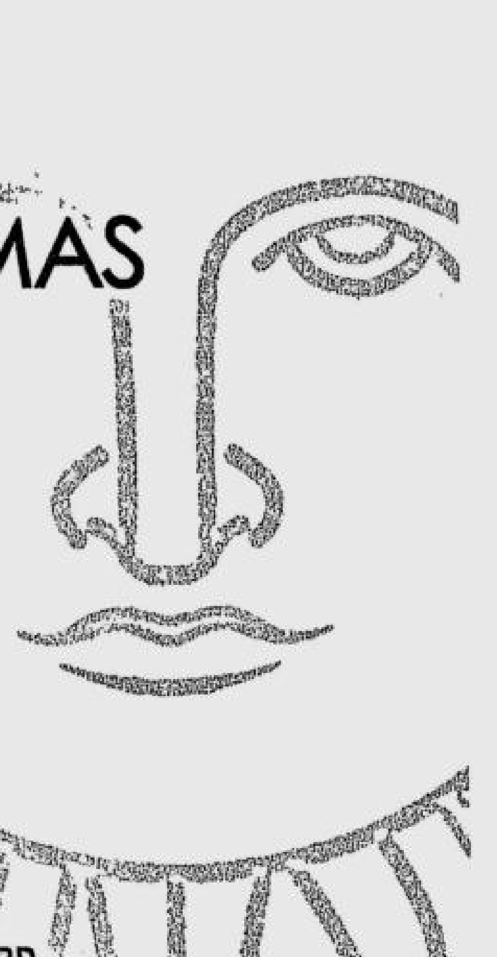

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STUDENT AWARDS DAY

March 15, 2006, 9:00 a.m., Education Auditorium

RECTOR'S ACADEMIC AWARD

Faculty of Sacred Theology	Bro. Jessie R. Yap, O.P.
Faculty of Civil Law	Franco Aristotle G. Larcina
Faculty of Medicine and Surgery	Anna Cecilia S.A. Tiangco
Faculty of Pharmacy	Rose Anne E. Syjuco
Faculty of Arts and Letters	Jo Anne G. Angeles
Faculty of Engineering	Archie Bryan S. Co
College of Education	Vincent V. Caparas
College of Education	Christina Joy P. Malong
College of Science	Reuben D.R. Nuval
College of Architecture	Steven Fredric E. Tiong
College of Commerce	Paolo A. Nocum
Conservatory of Music	Winnie C. Ting
College of Nursing	Ruff Joseph M. Cajanding
College of Rehabilitation Sciences	Caroline Bernadette O. King Kay
College of Fine Arts and Design	Kate Jennifer P. Lozano
College of Accountancy	Smith C. Lim
UST High School	Mabeth B. Añonuevo
Education High School	Yanna Diorella M. Umali
Elementary School	Louise Joy R. Bola

POPE LEO XIII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AWARD

GROUP CATEGORY

FACULTY/COLLEGE	
Faculty of Sacred Theology	Theological Society
Faculty of Medicine & Surgery	Medical Missions, Inc. – Student Group
Faculty of Pharmacy	Rotaract Club – Pharmacy Unit
Faculty of Engineering	UST Chemical Engineering Society
College of Education	STS-HRM Society
College of Science	Microbiological Society
College of Nursing	Medical Mission Inc. – Nursing Group

BENAVIDES OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

Faculty of Pharmacy	Mark Lester S. Sy
Faculty of Pharmacy	Royce Anne Katrine G. Estella
College of Education	Alexander C. Briones
College of Education	Gian Carlo Nocom
College of Education	Sherily Cua
College of Education	Ann Michelle Remo
College of Education	Prandee John Dee
College of Education	Joseph Alden Guillen
College of Education	Ronald Anthony Meneses
College of Science	Xyza Jane S. Templonuevo
College of Science	Joseph Michael L. Ramirez
College of Architecture	Michael Vincent R. Uy
College of Commerce	Shercila B. Kua
Conservatory of Music	Alberto O. Mesa
Conservatory of Music	Darren Elias D.J. Matias
College of Fine Arts and Design	Jan Olympus Salvador B. Dela Cruz
College of Accountancy	Smith C. Lim
UST High School	Jehriel Rolando Alberto III
UST High School	John Andrew S. Patricio
UST High School	Keith Lhynne C. Cruz
UST High School	Paolo Pilares
UST High School	R. Jay del Rosario
Education High School	John Gabrielle I. Guevarra
Elementary School	Reynaldo P. Jaylo
Institute of Physical Education and Athletics	Esther Marie Singson
Institute of Physical Education and Athletics	Bernadette Mag-aso
Institute of Physical Education and Athletics	Benigno Marayag
Institute of Physical Education and Athletics	Ben Alejandrino
Office for Student Affairs	John Voltaire Almeda

BENAVIDES OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

GROUP CATEGORY

Faculty of Sacred Theology	Inter Nos
Faculty of Pharmacy	Medical Technology Quiz Team
College of Education	Kaori Fuchigami and Leona Rica Manalo
College of Education	Charisse M. Anastacio, Ma. Madonna V. Ferrer, Doryver D. Gabriola, Hanna Carmela P. Garcia, Jan Vania O. Javier, Arianne Aubrey C. Mercurio, and Patricia Aubrey G. Satur
College of Science	Psychology Quiz Team
College of Architecture	Virlin Q. Alcantara, Marie Veronique D. Boncan, Justin A. Cruz, Jean Paul B. Peteza and Maria Diwata S. Reyes
College of Architecture	Adrian Lorenzo Alfonso, Gian P. Arcones, Keith Bryan David, Chris Anthony B. Jimenez, and Carlo Lorenzo B. Tibajia
College of Architecture	Kellyn Ann O. See, Vincent Rinaldo B. Cabochan, Joan Adda M. Ling, Mark Anthony P. Baquir and William Kelvin U. Chua
College of Rehabilitation Sciences	Herman H. Hsieh, Maechelle Anne Navarra, James Ryan Nomus, John Ericsson T. Sañez and Kristel Rose V. Samson
College of Rehabilitation Sciences	Donald Manlapaz, Paul Que-Sanchez and Kristine Sanchez
College of Accountancy	JPIA Debating Team
UST High School	Taekwondo Junior Team
UST High School	Track and Field Team
Institute of Physical Education and Athletics	Salinggawi Dance Troupe
Institute of Physical Education and Athletics	Taekwondo Men's Varsity Team
Institute of Physical Education and Athletics	Taekwondo Women's Varsity Team
Institute of Physical Education and Athletics	Men's Table Tennis Team
Department of Military Science and Tactics	UST Reserved Officers Training Corps Unit

QUEZON LEADERSHIP AWARD

Faculty of Sacred Theology	Sem. Emmanuel S. Contreras
Faculty of Civil Law	Samantha P. Camitan
Faculty of Medicine and Surgery	Brian Christopher M. Nocon
Faculty of Pharmacy	Hansel James B. Bulaclac
Faculty of Arts and Letters	Louie Benedict R. Ignacio
Faculty of Engineering	Mildred A. Ebuengan
College of Education	Gerardo DS. Carrera
College of Science	Alan Martin A. Guerrero
College of Architecture	Charisse Jermaine U. Ong
College of Commerce	Kim Louie M. Favis
Graduate School	Christopher C. Cueto
College of Rehabilitation Sciences	Mark Carlyle Y. Jalijali
Education High School	Juan L. Talamayan

ST. DOMINIC DE GUZMAN AWARD

Faculty of Sacred Theology	Theological Society
Faculty of Philosophy	Faculty of Philosophy Students' Forum
Faculty of Medicine and Surgery	Medicine Student Council
Faculty of Pharmacy	Pharmacy Student Council
Faculty of Arts and Letters	Communication Arts Students' Association
Faculty of Engineering	Engineering Student Council
College of Education	Philippine Association of Nutrition - Omega UST Chapter
College of Science	College of Science Student Council
College of Architecture	United Architects of the Philippines - Student Auxiliary
College of Commerce	Commerce Journal
College of Nursing	RCYC – Nursing Chapter
College of Rehabilitation Sciences	CRS Student Council
Publications Office	The Varsitarian
Office for Student Affairs	Student Organizations Coordinating Council

SPECIAL CITATION

Elementary School	Elementary Choir

MARCH 15 AM

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- Dominated the UAAP as General Champion for 19 consecutive years (1987-2006)
- UAAP Cheerdance Competition 4-PEAT Champion

2005-2006 BOARD TOPNOTCHERS

ARCHITECTURE
Licensure Examination
(January 2005)
1st place Jayson Patrick Anthony Buensalido
3rd place Gerald Michael Dy
5th place Carlos Luis Ganzon
6th place Andrew Benedict Sy
7th place Vergel Angelo Paule
8th place Techie Rose Espiritu
9th place Andres Perfecto Santiago

ARCHITECTURE
Licensure Examination
(June 2005)
2nd place Geomille Sardan Tumamao
9th place Genil Aguilon Diana
10th place Jefferson Bayani Protomartir

ARCHITECTURE
Licensure Examination
(January 2006)
1st place Johnstein Lu Castillio
5th place Sherwin Pimentel Espejo
7th place Francis Patrick Dela Cruz Basilio
9th place Charina Ona Cruz

PHYSICAL THERAPY
Licensure Examination
(July 2005)
1st place Thalia A. Dela Merced
2nd place Kimberly U. Sy
6th place Maria Kathleen I. Santos
7th place Jose Enrico A. Gallana
9th place Jan Nicolette S. King
11th place Jondee D. Go
12th place Lauren Anne S. Liao
14th place Mary Joy F. Lim
15th place Marie Antonette F. Ablog
16th place Jaes Hardey B. Dimalig
19th place Ferdinand Rey G. Rogelio

PHYSICAL THERAPY
Licensure Examination
(February 2006)
7th place Tiffany Lee Villamor
10th place John Clemente Ancieto De Leon

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Licensure Examination
(July 2005)
4th place John Ray M. Lucas
Erwin R. Visico

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
Licensure Examination
(February 2006)
2nd place Anna Kristina Perez Limpingco
3rd place Lorra Galda Garcia Padiernos

ACCOUNTANCY
Licensure Examination
(May 2005)
1st place Jhoanna Feliza C. Go

PHARMACY
Licensure Examination
(July 2005)
7th place Dixie Pritzel C. Calpatura
10th place Jesson Jose B. Mendigorin
13th place Ryan P. De Leon
14th place Ma. Marylaine U. Dujunco

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY
Licensure Examination
(September 2005)
8th place Arlene J. Castro
9th place Catherine B. Ciado
15th place Michael Conrad L. Tongol

PHARMACY
Licensure Examination
(January 2006)
3rd place Humphrey C. Casauay

MEDICINE
Licensure Examination
(February 2006)
3rd place Caroline C. Lim
10th place Iris B. Balating

NUTRITION and DIETETICS
Licensure Examination
(July 2005)
5th place Maria Francia S. Bareis
6th place Faye Michelle P. Mendoza
10th place Irene Grace R. Valones

INTERIOR DESIGN
Licensure Examination
(October 2005)
1st place Joanne S. Lazaro
2nd place Marbie Diana C. Celzo
4th place Camille Q. Afuang
6th place Anne Marjorie G. Olegario
7th place Maribeth A. Dono
8th place Maria Paula Gracia C. Herrera

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
Licensure Examination
(April 2005)
8th place Elizabeth S. Chua

CIVIL ENGINEERING
Licensure Examination
(November 2005)
7th place Diana P. del Rosario
8th place Jay Benedict D. Cabrera
16th place Rica Maria Christelle A. Arroyo
Ralph Steward P. Tsang
20th place Angelo Rafael A. Agbayani

ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING
Licensure Examination
(November 2005)
7th place Anthony Martin C. Lim

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
Licensure Examination
(September 2005)
13th place Jordan G. Rivera

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7-year Treasury bonds attract ₱26B worth of bids

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT'S 7-YEAR TREASURY bonds attracted over P26 billion worth of bids yesterday, pushing its rate down to only 8.376 percent.

The new rate for the 7-year borrowing was 37.4 basis points lower than the 8.75 percent set by the Bureau of the Treasury for the same debt instrument during the bond exchange held last Feb. 24.

"Liquidity has increased tremendously. It (7-year bond) has the yield of a long-term and a liquidity of a short-term government security," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz in a briefing after yesterday's auction.

He said the huge appetite for the 7-year bonds was an indication of the market's confidence in the government's fiscal capabilities.

The 7-year bonds auctioned off yesterday were a reissue of the original bonds offered last Feb. 24, when the government swapped fresh 5- and 7-year bonds for old government securities held by investors.

The BTr yesterday accepted P8 billion of the P26.795 billion worth of tenders.

"This is very good for the domestic capital market," Cruz said, explaining that the high level of liquidity circulating in the secondary market was a sign it was gaining much activity.

Cruz said his office decided to raise P8 billion from yesterday's auction, higher than the usual P4-billion debt offering through bond float, to compensate for the reduccion in the offering of securities of other tenors.

He said the BTr cut to P3 billion its regular Treasury bill offering, and limited the frequency of its auctions to once every two weeks. In the past, the government had been offering P3.5 billion worth of T-bills weekly.

The market's positive response to yesterday's 7-year debt offering was a carry-on momentum from the huge volume of bids raised during the T-bill auction last Monday, he said. During this auction, the benchmark 91-day T-bill rate fell 23.3 basis points to 5.017 percent.

$3.8M worth of projects OKd for registration

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY said it had approved for registration 14 projects worth $3.8 million, including an additional investment of P87 million from Tawanese firm Gigatek Subic Bay Inc.

SBMA Chair Feliciano G. Salonga said the projects were approved in the first nine weeks of the year. The biggest of which were related to electronics and industrial supplies, such as that of Gigatek which is engaged in the manufacturing and trading of electronics communication and computer-related products and devices.

Another big-ticket project is that of Coil Chemical Subic Inc. which is engaged in the manufacturing and trading of paints, lithium-ion batteries and bio-cosmetics. This is worth P45 million.

Also approved was the P32-million project of Subic Amino Hightech Corp., manufacturer of polypropylene pellets and other plastic products.

Salonga said three shipping projects had registered with SBMA. These were HL Speedy Trans Inc.'s business in trucking and hauling services, Mutual Fortune Express Inc.'s freight and cargo forwarding services, and Wan Hai Lines (Philippines) Inc.'s shipping services.

He said four other firms would open restaurants that would cater to tourists going to Subic. These were International Family Food Services Inc., Philippine Green Field International Inc., Subic Hwa Dong Inc., and Gangmac Seafood Restaurant.

The other projects were KWT Computer Systems Inc.'s web hosting and design as well as computer repair; Vann Tech Subic Bay Corp.'s water treatment equipment manufacturing; Wartsila Land and Sea Academy Inc.'s center for short courses in maritime and power plant training, and Marquita Nagal Hunt Collection's research project on stamps, demonitized bank notes and coins.

Ronnel W. Domingo

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   - Experience related to franchise development is an advantage
   - Honest, reliable with good organizational skills
   - Computer literate
   - Excellent communication, presentation skills
2. ASST. CHEF (1)
   - M/F 23-32 years old
   - At least 1-2 years extensive experience gained from restaurant, commissary or industrial canteen operation
   - Knowledge in menu development, food costing, cost control, inventory management and kitchen management.
   - Computer literate
   - Has good decision making, resourceful, with a sense of urgency and trustworthy
3. QA/RD ASSISTANT (1)
   - M/F at least 23 years old
   - Food technology graduate, Nutrition or Food engineering course
   - At least 1 year experience in the food manufacturing industry
   - Familiar with regulatory requirements
   - Preferably with knowledge of food costing, cost control, inventory control and kitchen management
   - Has good decision making, resourceful, with a sense of urgency and trustworthy
4. MALL LEASING OFFICER (1)
   - F/M
   - 22-30 years old
   - Managerial/supervisory experience preferably in mall/bazaar operation, management and promotion
   - Can implement strategic programs in mall revenue enhancement and marketing
   - Can work with minimum supervision
   - Pleasant personality and excellent interpersonal skills
5. ASST. BUYER/MERCHANDISER (1)
   - FEMALE
   - At least 1-2 years experience as an asst. buyer or merchandiser gained from convenience store and supermarket.
   - Excellent negotiation skills
   - Has good decision making, resourceful, with a sense of urgency and trustworthy
   - Graduate of marketing, and business management course

Interested applicants may send thru fax or e-mail comprehensive resume or apply in person at the following address not later than March 20, 2006. Look for Ms. Precy.

SUPERVALUE FRANCHISE CONCEPT INC
Fort-Am Bldg. #170 B. Pasig Blvd. Ext.,
Bgy. Bagong Ilog, Pasig City
Tel Fax# 747-02-68/633-4504
maxzbond24@yahoo.com

CAMP JOHN HAY
GOLF CLUB

March 15, 2006

NOTICE OF AUCTION

Please be advised that Camp John Hay Golf Club, Inc. will be holding an Auction Sale of delinquent certificates on –

March 21, 2006
Tuesday, 10:00 A.M.
at the Balmori & Balagtas Function Rooms
Manila Peninsula
Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue
Makati City

** Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 10:00 a.m.*

Should there be any queries regarding the auction, please feel free to contact the following numbers:

Manila Office	02 687 5279 or 687 6524
Baguio Office	074 444 2132 or 444 2133

Very truly yours,

Engr. Fran [illegible] C. Gonzalez
Chairman
Membership Committee

Camp John Hay Golf Club PO Box 1141 Loakan Rd Baguio City Philippines • Phone (6374) 444 2561 • E-mail [illegible]
Manila Office Unit 1107 A 11th Floor West Tower Philippine Stock Exchange Road Ortigas Center Pasig City
Phone (632) 687-6607/ 687-6710/687-6351 • Fax (632) 687-6379 Website [illegible]
Managed by Camp John Hay Leisure Corporation

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ThinkPad R51e
DISTINCTIVE INNOVATIONS
Rescue and Recovery™
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery
SYSTEM FEATURES
Intel® Pentium® M Processor 740 (1.73GHz)
Windows® XP Home
256MB DDR2 SDRAM, 40GB HDD
CD-RW/DVD-RW Multi-Burner
14.1" XGA (1024x768) TFT LCD display, ATI Radeon 200m, IBM 802.11 Wireless b/g, 1 year parts & labor (system battery: 1 year) Customer Carry-in Repair Warranty
FREE USB Travel Mouse
THINK EXPRESS MODEL
PHP75,195† (1843A15)

ThinkPad R51e
DISTINCTIVE INNOVATIONS
Rescue and Recovery™
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery
SYSTEM FEATURES
Intel® Pentium® M Processor 740 (1.73GHz)
Windows® XP Home
256MB DDR2 SDRAM, 40GB HDD
CD-RW/DVD-ROM Combo
14.1" XGA (1024x768) TFT LCD display, ATI Radeon 200m, IBM 802.11 Wireless b/g, 1 year parts & labor (system battery: 1 year) Customer Carry-in Repair Warranty
FREE USB Travel Mouse
THINK EXPRESS MODEL
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Rescue and Recovery™
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery
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CD-RW/DVD-RW Multi-Burner
14.1" XGA (1024x768) TFT LCD display, ATI Radeon 200m, IBM 802.11 Wireless b/g, 1 year parts & labor (system battery: 1 year) Customer Carry-in Repair Warranty
Also Available with Intel® Celeron® M Processor 380 (1.6GHz) & CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive (1843A21) at only PHP49,395
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Rural bank owner takes on BSP, PDIC in court

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE OWNER OF PADLOCKED Merchants Rural Bank of Talavera Inc. has taken the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. to court in an attempt to regain control of the cash-strapped institution.

Hilario Soriano, majority owner of Merchants RB, asked the Court of Appeals to reverse a Jan. 26 Monetary Board order shutting down the bank. Soriano also sought a temporary restraining order to stop PDIC's takeover.

But the CA's fifth division, in a Feb. 22 order, held in abeyance any decision to issue the TRO pending the submission of documents needed to resolve the matter.

Over the past few years, Soriano also engaged banking regulators in a court battle over the closure of another bank, the Rural Bank of San Miguel Inc. (RSBM), where he sat as president and principal stockholder.

Soriano accused top BSP officials of violating standards of professionalism in allegedly "brokering" the sale of RSBM to a new investor and using its financial condition as the subject of a case study in one of the BSP's seminars. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the BSP last year.

Merchants RB of Talavera was taken over by the PDIC on Jan. 26—the same day that the BSP's policy-making body padlocked the bank.

In his petition, Soriano said Merchant RB's financial woes were rooted in a case of fraud involving an employee. Soriano also questioned the asset valuation system the BSP used when it declared the bank insolvent.

Insolvency, as opposed to being merely illiquid, means that a company's liabilities exceed its assets.

In his petition, Soriano said the closure of Merchants RB had caused him "irreparable damage." He asked the court to order the PDIC to give him back the bank's branches, assets and records.

The PDIC, on its part, had started paying deposit claims to clients of Merchants RB last Feb. 3. The rural bank had eight branches and an estimated insured deposit liability of P338.1 million. Its depositors have until Jan. 28, 2008 to file their claims.

Soriano's other bank, RSBM, once the biggest rural bank in Bulacan, went on a holiday in January 2000 and was eventually closed by the BSP.

The BSP also charged RBSM and Soriano of engaging in fictitious lending, violating lending limits to directors, officers and related interests, and illegally appropriating some of the P400 million in emergency loans extended by the BSP.

Although Soriano, as head of RSBM, is the subject of pending criminal cases, he has gone on to become the majority owner of Merchants RB, according to BSP officials.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Philippines

IN THE MATTER OF:
JASA ELECTRONICS CORP.

SEC Admin. Case No. 08-02-64
For: Revocation of Certificate of Registration

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT (CED),
Petitioner.
x---x

ORDER

It appearing that copy of the Summons to show cause dated 04 September 2002 issued by Hearing Officer Russel I. Ildesa to respondent **Jasa Electronics Corp.** by way of personal delivery was returned unserved for the reason that the respondent corporation no longer holds office at the last known business address, the issuance of Summons by Publication is in order.

Wherefore, let a service of summons by way of publication of the Show Cause Order, this Order and the Petition for Revocation of Certificate of Registration that was filed against respondent corporation be issued to respondent **Jasa Electronics Corp.** and its incorporators namely: ***Tan Too Kang, Chan Ho Chit, Ann Margaret Villanueva, Lourdes Lim Co, and Maribel Husain*** pursuant to Rule 14, Section 14 of the Rules of Court, which is suppletorily applicable to SEC Circular No. 4, s. 2001.

Accordingly, all publication expenses shall be borne by petitioner.

SO ORDERED.

Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
14 July 2005.

(Sgd.) **VERNETTE G. UMALI-PACO**
General Counsel

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Philippines

IN THE MATTER OF:
JASA ELECTRONICS CORP.

SEC Admin. Case No. 08-02-64
For: Revocation of Certificate of Registration

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT (CED),
Petitioner.
x---x

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO:	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
JASA ELECTRONICS CORP.	c/o Mr. Jason Tan 8th Floor Globe Telecom Building Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City
TAN TOO KANG	5001 Beach Rd. 7-12 Golden Milte Complex, Singapore
CHAN HO CHIT	Apt. B-763 Yishun St., 72 4-438 2776 Singapore
ANN MARGARET VILLANUEVA	717 Roxas Boulevard, Baclaran Parañaque City
LOURDES LIM CO	717 Roxas Boulevard, Baclacan Parañaque City
MARIBEL HUSAIN	717 Roxas Boulevard, Baclaran Parañaque City

Greetings:

WHEREAS, on 19 August 2002, a verified Petition for Revocation of Certificate of Registration, a copy of which is attached as Annex "A", was filed against respondent corporation by the Compliance and Enforcement Department, for the alleged violation of Sec. 4 of the Revised Securities Act and Sec. 6 (L), subparagraph 2 of P.D. 902-A, as amended wherein the respondent corporation offered and succeeded in selling its shares of stock to the investing public issuing promised certificates of stock and that such shares offered and distributed were not registered with the Commission, causing grave and irreparable injury to the investing public;

WHEREAS, on 04 September 2002, Hearing Officer Russell I. Ildesa issued a Summons, a copy of which is attached as Annex "B", requiring the above-named respondent corporation to show cause why the respondent corporation's certificate of registration should not be revoked for the reasons invoked by the petitioner;

WHEREAS, copy of the aforementioned Show Cause Order that was furnished respondent corporation by personal delivery was returned unserved for the reason that the respondent corporation no longer holds office at the last known business address as stated above;

WHEREAS, on 14 July 2005, the Office of the General Counsel issued an Order for the service of summons by publication, a copy of which is attached as Annex "C";

NOW, THEREFORE, you, respondents **Jasa Electronics Corp.** and its incorporators namely: ***Tan Too Kang, Chan Ho Chit, Ann Margaret Villanueva, Lourdes Lim Co, and Maribel Husain*** are hereby directed to file with the Office of the General Counsel, Securities and Exchange Commission, 9th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, within thirty (30) days from the date of the publication of this Summons, your answer to the Petition and to send a copy thereof to the Petitioner. If you fail to do so within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief prayed for in the Petition.

Let this Summons and its Annexes be published once in a newspaper of general circulation at the expense of the petitioner.

Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.
14 July 20045.

VERNETTE G. UMALI-PACO
General Counsel

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

Compliance and Enforcement Department

IN THE MATTER OF
JASA ELECTRONICS CORP.
x---x

SEC Admin. Case No. 08-02-64
For: Revocation of Certificate of Registration

PETITION

COMES NOW the petitioner, through the undesigned counsel, and unto this Honorable office most respectfully states that:

1. Petitioner is the Compliance and Enforcement Department of the Securities and Exchange Commission with office address at the 5th floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City, where it may be served with summons;

2. Respondent JASA ELECTRONICS CORPORATION ("JASA", for brevity) is a domestic corporation duly organized and existing in accordance with the laws of the Republic of the Philippines registered with the Commission on 24 April 1997 under SEC Registration No. A199708204. It may be served with summons at its business address located at the 8th Floor, Globe Telecom Building, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City.

A certified true copy of its Certificate of Registration and Articles of Incorporation are hereto attached and marked as **Annex "A"** and **"B"**, respectively, and made integral part hereof.

3. The responsible officer of JASA is Jason Tan, President of the respondent corporation, who may be served with summons at the same afore-cited address.

4. Sometime on 31 august 2001, complaint-affidavits dated 17 and 31 August 2001, were filed with the Compliance and Enforcement Department against JASA by Leonidas Evangelista and Reynaldo S. Gonzales, respectively.

Photocopies of the complaint-affidavits are hereto attached and marked as Annex "C" and "D", respectively, and made integral part hereof.

5. The complaint-affidavit of Leonidas Evangelista, hereby in part narrates as follows:

> "1. Sometime in March 2000 I read an article in the Philippine Star about a computer company inviting idividual investors to be a . shareholder of the company, a copy of the newspaper clipping is hereto attached as Annex "A". (sic)
>
> 2. Encouraged by said advertisement I went to the office of said corporation located at the 8th Floor of the Globe Telecommunication Building. I found the office very impressive with several computers and office furniture. (sic)
>
> 3. I was met by a polite soft-spoken Singaporean national who spoke English and who introduced himself as Jason Tan, President of JASA Electronics Corporation. (sic)
>
> xxx xxx xxx xxx
>
> 5. On March 31, 2000, I decided to go back to JASA Corporation and invest the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND (P50,000.00) PESOS receipt of which was duly acknowledged by the corporation as evidenced by Official Receipt No. 103, copy of which is hereto attached Annex "B"
>
> 6. Likewise, I was made to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (Annex "C-C-2) dated March 31, 2000 and was told to come back after two (2) weeks to claim my stock certificate.
>
> 7. When I came back after two weeks, I was told that the certificate is still being processed and was told to come back again.
>
> 8. After several follow-ups, I was told by the Secretary that their President is in Singapore as such the certificate cannot be released. She promised to call me as soon as the President returns. (sic)
>
> 9. After several months of waiting, without receiving a call from said corporation, I went to its office again and was surprised to learn that the office of JASA Electronics Corporation was already closed.
>
> xxx xxx xxx xxx

The above-referred to attachments of the complaint-Affidavit of Leonidas Evangelista, namely the newspaper clipping, the Official receipt, and the Memorandum of Agreement are hereto attached and marked as **Annex "C-1", "C-2" and "C-3"**, respectively.

6. Corollary to the immediately proceeding, the complaint-affidavid of Reynaldo S. Gonzales in part alleges that:

> "1. Sometime in March 2000, I read an article in the Philippine Star about a computer company inviting individual investors to be a shareholder of the company, a copy of the newspaper clipping is hereto attached as Annex "A". (sic)
>
> 2. Encouranged by said advertisement I went to the office of said corporation located at the 8th Floor of the Globe Telecommunication Building. I found the office very impressive with several computers and office furniture. (sic)
>
> 3. I was met by a polite soft-spoken Singaporean national who spoke English and who introduced himself as Jason Tan, President of JASA Electronics Corporation. (sic)
>
> xxx xxx xxx xxx
>
> 5. On April 01, 2000, I decided to go back to JASA Corporation and invest the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND (P50,000.00) PESOS receipt of which was duly acknowledged by the corporation as evidenced by Official Receipt No. 0107, copy of which is hereto attached as Annex "B"
>
> 6. Likewise, I was made to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (Annex "C-C-2) dated April 01, 2000 and was told to come back to claim my stock certificate within a month's time.
>
> 7. Impressed by the presentation of its buiness operations and the promise of good returns from my investment, I decided to invest an additional FIFTY THOUSAND (P50,000.00) PESOS on April 13, 2000, receipt of which was duly acknowledged by the corporation as evidenced by official receipt No. 0118, copy of which is hereto attached as Annex "D".
>
> 10. However, it was only on April 24, 2000 that I was made to sign another Memorandum of Agreement, copy of which is hereto attached as Annex "E". Thereafter, I was again told to follow up my stock certificates later.
>
> 11. When I came back after two weeks, I was told that the certificate is still being processed and was told to come back again.
>
> 12. After several follow-ups, I was told by the Secretary that their President is in Singapore as such the certificate cannot be released. She promised to call me as soon as the President returns. (sic)
>
> 13. After several months of waiting without receiving a call from said corporation, I went to its office again and was surprised to learn that the office of JASA Electronics Corporation was already closed.
>
> xxx xxx xxx xxx

The Complaint-Affidavit of Reynaldo S. Gonzales, and its attachments, namely, the Newspaper Clipping, Official Receipt No. 0107, the Memorandum of Agreement dated 1 April 2000, Official Receipt No. 0118, and the Memorandum Agreement dated 24 April 2000 are hereto attached and marked as **Annex "D-1", "D-2", "D-3", "D-4" and "D-5"**, respectively, and made integral part hereof.

7. In connection therewith, an Order was issued by the Commission dated 4 October 2001, whereby a team of Securities Investigators, namely, Edwin B. Florida and Imelda T. Villarente, conducted an ocular inspection/investigation in the principal office address of respondent corporation located at Globe Telecom Building, Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City. Said ocular investigation revealed that respondent corporation occupied Unit 809 of said building which was closed at the time of the inspection.

A copy of the Order is hereto attached and marked as Annex "E", and made integral part hereof.

8. Verification made by the SEC investigators with the building administrator identified as Noreen Maliwat, confirmed the physical closure of the office by JASA. Reportedly, the closure had been unofficial as there has been no notice of closure filed with the building administration. A further check with the accounting department showed that JASA had been delinquent in the payment of its condominium association's dues since its billings and notices have been delivered for lack of forwarding address.

The Investigation Report dated 5 November 2001 is hereto attached and marked as **Annex "F"**, and made integral part hereof.

9. Subsequently, and upon request by the CED, the Corporation Finance Department (CFD) issued a certification dated 3 April 2002 stating that respondent-corporation is not a registered issuer of securities.

A copy of the said CFD certification is hereto attached and marked as **Annex "G"**, and made integral part hereof.

10. Relatively, the Market Regulation Department (MRD), likewise upon request of the CED, issued a certification dated 5 April 2002 certifying that respondent corporation has not been issued by secondary license to act as broker/dealer in securities, investment House, and dealer in government securities.

A copy of the said MRD certification is hereto attached and marked as **Annex "H"**, and made integral part hereof.

11. Finally, as certified to by the Finance Director the PhilSTAR Daily, Inc., Annex "C" and "D" as attached hereto was published in the 17 March 2000 issue of the Philippines Star.

A copy of the Affidavit of Publication dated 1 August 2001 is hereto attached and marked as Annex "I" and made an integral part hereof.

12. Based from the foregoing, it can be gleaned that JASA, undoubtedly, offered, and had for a fact, succeeded in selling its shares of stock to the investing public.

13. Sections 4 and 56 of the Revised Securities Act and Section 6 (L), subparagraph 2 of P.D. 902-A, as amended, provide:

> "SEC. 4. *Requirement of registration of securities.* - (a) No securities, except of a class exempt under any of the provisions of Section five hereof or unless old in any trasaction exempt under any of the provisions of Section six hereof, shall be sold or offered for sale or distribution to the public within the Philippines unless such securities shall have been registered and permitted to be sold as hereinafter provided"
>
> "SEC. 6. In order to effectively exercise such jurisdiction, the Commission shall possess the following powers:
>
> x x x
>
> 1) To suspend, or revoke, after proper notice and hearing, the franchise or certificate of registration of corporations, partnerships or associations, upon any of the grounds provided by law, including the following:
>
> x x x
>
> 2. Serious misrepresentation as to what the corporation can do or is doing to the great prejudice of or damage to the general public"

13. Thus, for cause, and due to the attendant badges of fraud arising from JASA's continuous and inexplicable failure to deliver the promised certificates of stock to the private complainants-investors, and aggravated by the fact that it can not anymore be contacted at its business address, petitioner files this petition for the purpose of instituting revocation proceedings against the erring corporation for the serious misrepresentation arising from its unregistered offer and sale of securities to the public involving its unissued shares which, under the afore-mentioned provisions of law, requires prior registration with the Commission; and for the dissolution of its corporate franchise in order to protect the interest of the public from consequential damages caused by the continued operation thereof.

PRAYER

Wherefore premises considered, it is most respectfully prayed of this Honorable Office that, after due notice and hearing, judgment be rendered revoking the certificate of registration of **JASA ELECTRONICS CORPORATION** for violation of Section 4 of the Revised Securities Act, in relation to Section 6 L (2) of P.D. 902-A, as amended.

Petitioner likewise prays for such other relief and remedies just and equitable in the premises.

Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, 19 August 2002.

For the Compliance and Enforcement Department of the Commission

(Sgd.) **EMMETT RODION O. MANANTAN**
Securities Counsel III

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **JOSE TOMAS C. SYQUIA**
Director
SEC-CED

VERIFICATION

We, **EDWIN B. FLORIDA** and **IMELDA T. VILLARENTE**, of the Compliance and Enforcement Department, after having been sworn to in accordance with law hereby depose and state that:

1. We were the designated investigators assigned to this case.
2. We caused the preparation of this petition
3. We read the understood all the allegations herein contained and that the same are true and correct of my personal knowledge.
4. We certify that Annex "A" to "I" of this petition are true and correct and are faitful reproduction of the original, except for Annex "C-1 to C-3" and "D-1 to D-5" which are mere xerox copies.
5. Finally, We have not commenced any action, nor to the best of our knowledge, there is pending any other action / proceeding involving the same issues in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, or any other tribunal or agency; and should we learn that a similar action / proceeding has been filed or is pending before such bodies, we shall within five (5) days there from inform the aforesaid courts or such tribunal or agency.

Witness our hand this 19th day of August 2002 at Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

EDWIN B. FLORIDA
SEC-CED

IMELDA T. VILLARENTE
SEC-CED

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 19th day of August 2002 at Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila. I hereby certify that I have examined personally the designated investigators and that I am satisfied that they have voluntarily executed and understood the petition.

CELSO VIRGILIO C. YLAGAN IV
Securities Counsel III

(PDI–March 15, 2006)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 14, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	8,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	35.5	35	35	48,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59.5	58.5	59	7,886,200
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	2,680
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.39	0.42	2,510,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	66.5	67	66.5	66.5	52,000
International Exch. Bank	25	25	25	25	72,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39	39	38	38.5	1,057,700
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	50	50	50	50	500
Philippine National Bank	31	31.5	31	31	13,200
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	1,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	15,000
Security Bank Corp.	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	27,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	10,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	23	24.25	23	24.25	900
Manulife Financial Corp.	3250	3250	3250	3250	630
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.98	1	0.98	1	150,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	500
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2160	2160	2160	2160	500
Ivantage Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	910,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43	44.5	43	44.5	81,900
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	39.5	40.5	39.5	40	675,700
Manila Electric Co. A	13	13.25	13	13.25	21,200
Manila Electric Co. B	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	12,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	4,348,000
Petron Corp.	4.45	4.5	4.45	4.5	175,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	5,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	36,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	55,900
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.74	105,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61.5	61.5	60.5	61	38,400
San Miguel Corp. B	79	79.5	78.5	79.5	107,900
Universal Robina Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17.25	681,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.3	5,480,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.24	5,524,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.4	1,868,000
CHEMICALS					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	50,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.75	100,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.44	0.46	0.43	0.43	490,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	27,000,000
Ayala Corp.	342.5	342.5	340	342.5	231,850
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.1	5	5.1	327,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.44	2.44	2.44	2.44	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	11,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.95	0.92	0.94	3,630,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	295,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.24	2.26	2.2	2.26	2,563,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.08	90,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	37,000
Medco Holdings	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	990,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	120,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.245	1,250,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	0.87	0.87	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	200,000
SM Investments Corp.	217	223	217	223	636,610
South China Resources Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	20,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	1,350,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.75	11	10.5	10.75	2,756,800
Belle Corp.	0.96	0.97	0.94	0.97	2,600,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.74	585,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	40,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	60,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	6,330,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	200,000
Filinvest Land, Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	278,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,200,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.44	2.85	2.44	2.85	905,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	660,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	1,724,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	5,830,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.29	9,350,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	1,000,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.225	0.26	0.225	0.26	17,260,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	81,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	10,870,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	2,830,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	24,500
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.89	350,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	815	830	815	820	41,660
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	2,578,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1835	1835	1825	1830	52,820
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	24,130,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.1	1.1	21,000
Philweb Corp.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	36,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	12.25	12.25	12	12	2,780,300
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	150,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	2,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	295,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	117,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	440,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	9.1	9.5	9.1	9.5	38,000
Far Eastern University	600	600	600	600	780
Ipeople Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	78,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	57,000
Paxys Inc.	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	1,313,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	1,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	25,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	833,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,730,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.245	0.245	0.235	0.24	3,610,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	14,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	6,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	65,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.88	1.92	1.88	1.88	14,066,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.12	2.12	2.02	2.04	13,025,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	190,500
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	950,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	38,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	18,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.45	450,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.47	80,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.95	4	3.95	3.95	148,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,900
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.5	350,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Financial	12,767,610	522,993,725.00
Industrial	20,687,000	102,568,810.00
Holding Firms	51,310,460	234,980,655.00
Property	65,969,800	140,858,135.00
Service	69,069,060	192,171,225.00
Mining & Oil	201,683,500	67,806,290.00
GRAND TOTALS :	421,487,430	1,261,378,840.00

	AVERAGES	
Financial	668.25	DOWN 1.85
Industrial	3,039.20	DOWN 2.11
Holding Firms	1,041.04	UP 11.15
Property	867.46	DOWN 11.66
Service	1,028.64	DOWN 0.27
Mining & Oil	2,956.63	DOWN 1.85
All Shares Index	1,302.06	UP 0.50
Composite	2,120.99	DOWN 0.77

NO. OF ADVANCES: 36, NO. OF DECLINES: 34, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 62, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 132, NO. OF TRADES: 3,108

SM group holding company nets ₱7.1B

Retail business still the main growth driver

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM INVESTMENTS CORP, THE HOLDING company of the SM Group of Companies, said its consolidated net income grew 24 percent to P7.1 billion last year from year ago's P5.8 billion.

SMIC restated its 2004 net income from P5.4 billion to P5.8 billion in line with the new International Accounting Standards which took effect last year.

SMIC, through its subsidiaries, is engaged in four core businesses: shopping mall development and management (SM Prime Holdings Inc.), retail merchandising (SM Department Stores); financial services (Banco de Oro Universal Bank and China Banking Corporation), and real estate development and tourism (SM Development Corp. and Highlands Prime Inc.).

Consolidated revenue last year climbed 7.5 percent to P54 billion from P50.2 billion in the previous year.

Retail sales remained the main growth driver, accounting for 72 percent of the company's total revenue.

The retail group contributed P39.1 billion in revenue, representing 8 percent growth from previous year's level, largely due to the opening of new SM department stores in Dasmariñas, Batangas, San Lazaro in Manila, and Sucat Annex.

Rental revenue grew by 9 percent to P8.3 billion in 2005 from P7.6 billion in the previous year.

In the financial services sector, Banco De Oro Universal Bank's net profit rose 26 percent to P2.5 billion and China Banking Corp.'s profit posted a growth of 12 percent to P3 billion.

Interest income surged 23 percent to P2.6 billion last year from P2.1 billion in 2004. Interest expense decreased by 22 percent to P2.5 billion this year as a result of the prepayments of certain bank debts.

The company's subsidiaries are undertaking their respective expansion programs. SM Prime continues to expand its network of malls. It opened its 23rd mall, the SM City Sta.Rosa, on Feb. 17. It is the first of the six SM malls scheduled for opening this year.

The other malls scheduled to open this year are the Mall of Asia, SM City Clark, SM City Lipa, SM Supercenter Frontera Verde, and SM City North Edsa Annex-3.

The total mall floor area will increase to 3.5 million square meters by end-2006 from 2.8 million square meters last year.

SM Department Store is also expanding with three new stores slated to open this year. At present SM runs 26 department stores.

In the meantime, Banco de Oro is converting into BDO branches the 66 branches of United Overseas Bank (UOB) Philippines, which it acquired last year. This will bring the total number of BDO branches to 251.

The bank's branching strategy is focused on the country's major industrial and commercial regions in Metro Manila and key provinces.

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IN THE MATTER OF THE
REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES :
LEXBER INCORPORATED :
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on September 15, 2005 a registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of LEXBER INCORPORATED to cover 1,020 Non-Proprietary Timeshares of Lexber Homes Beachworld Resort (the Project) with an offer price enumerated as follows.

Number of Shares Offered	Unit Price	Offering
Red 500	200	P 225,000
	150	265,000
	150	295,000
White 260	88	175,000
	86	200,000
	86	220,000
Blue 260	88	145,000
	86	165,000
	86	195,000

The total estimated gross proceeds from the offering amount to Two Hundred Twenty Four Million Six Hundred Seventy Thousand Pesos (P224,670,000.00)

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation

NAME	POSITION
ALEJANDRO G. CRUZ-HERRERA	Chairman and CEO
BERNARDITA R. CRUZ-HERRERA	Director & Corp. Secretary
ELPIDIO Y. CUSTODIO	Director/Asst. Corp. Secretary
MANUEL R. TOLONE	Director/Assistant Treasurer
ALEXIS R. CRUZ-HERRERA	Principal Operating Officer/Comptroller
RODERICK P. BAYBAYAN	Principal Accounting Officer
ANITA L. MACUTO	Principal Treasury Officer

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI – March 10 & 15, 2006)

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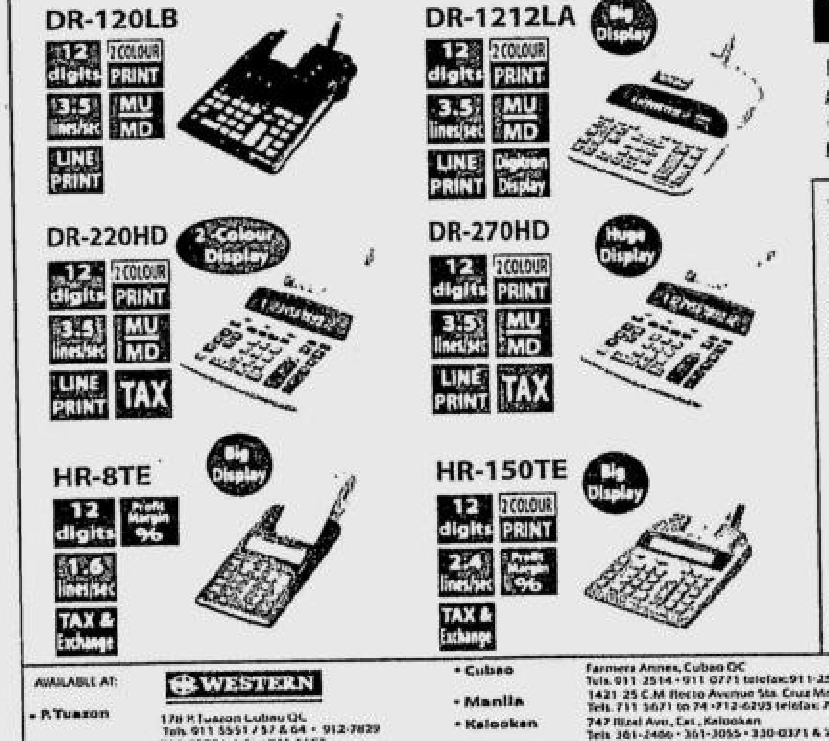

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DR-220HD · 2-Colour Display
12 digits · 2 COLOUR PRINT · 3.5 lines/sec · MU MD · LINE PRINT · TAX

DR-270HD · Huge Display
12 digits · 2 COLOUR PRINT · 3.5 lines/sec · MU MD · LINE PRINT · TAX

HR-8TE · Big Display
12 digits · Profit Margin % · 1.6 lines/sec · TAX & Exchange

HR-150TE · Big Display
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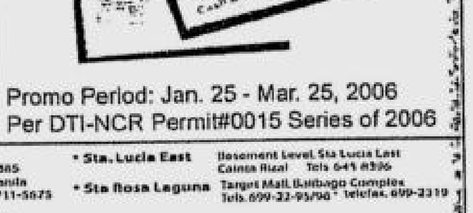

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The Power of Choice is now in your hands. You need not look beyond BPI Asset Management for the right Unit Investment Trust Fund to serve your investment needs.

Phone rates reduction seen to continue on strong peso

By Daxim L. Lucas

LOCAL TELEPHONE RATES MAY continue to fall as the peso continues to strengthen against the US dollar.

This possibility emerged after the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) informed telecommunications regulators that it had cut its service rates starting last month to account for the stronger peso.

PLDT, in a manifestation to the National Telecommunications Commission, said it was implementing a 10 percent reduction in its local service rates effective Feb. 1. The rate cut was computed based on an exchange rate of P52.50 to $1.

Because PLDT's costs are partly denominated in US dollars, it periodically adjusts its fees to account for the fluctuations in the peso-dollar exchange rate.

"[PLDT] is authorized... to increase or decrease its local service rates by one percent for every P0.10 upward or downward change in the present peso-dollar exchange rate," the company told regulators.

The telecommunications giant's present base of reference for currency adjustment is P11 to $1 which was the exchange rate as of Aug. 12, 1983 when the company's local service rates were provisionally revised by regulators.

PLDT's previous currency adjustment was filed last Jan. 6, based on the central bank's reference foreign exchange rate of P53.50 to $1 as of Jan. 2, 2006.

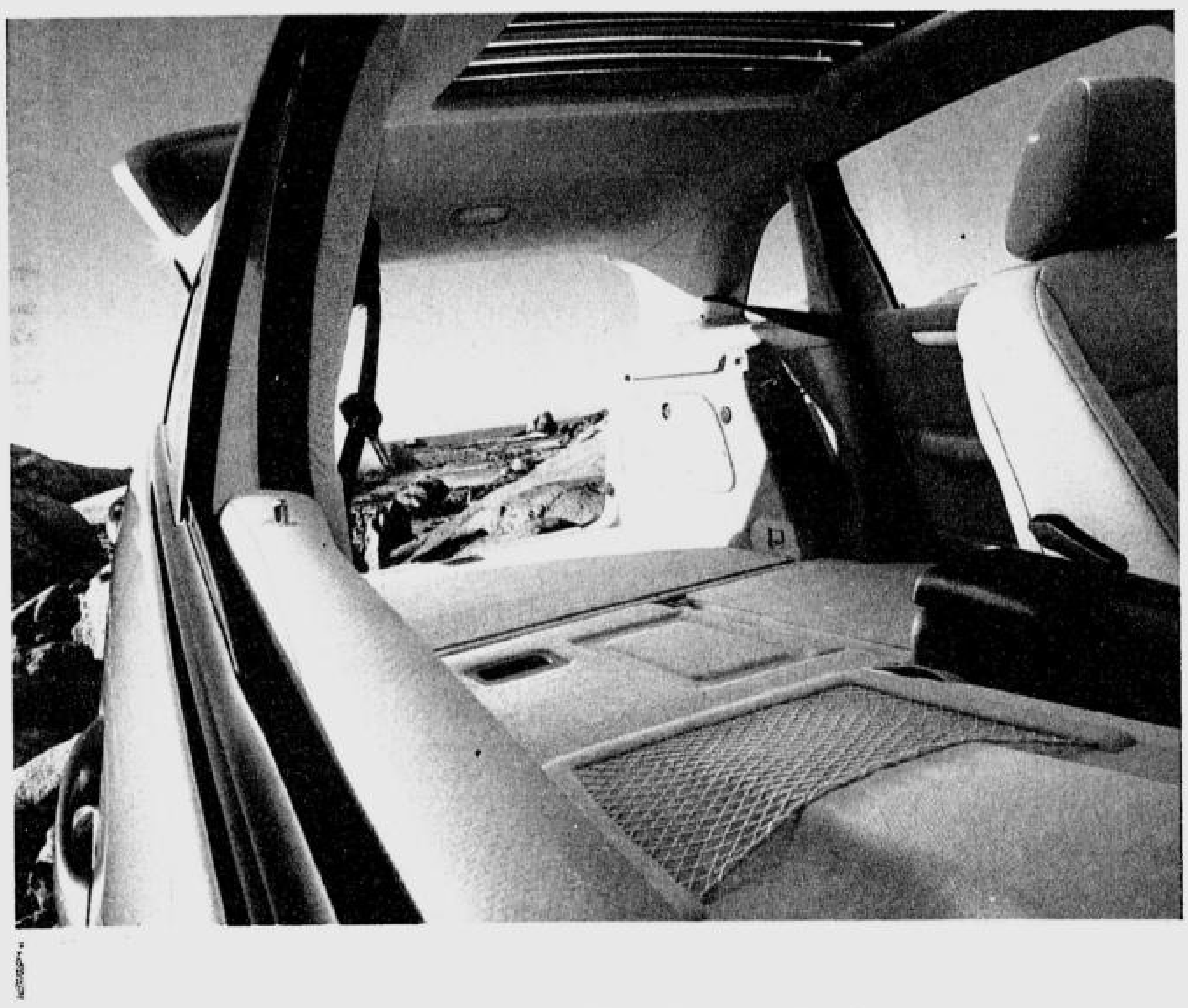
According to PLDT, the moving average foreign exchange rate—based on the central bank's data—has decreased by 10 percent from Jan. 5, 2006 to Feb. 1, 2006.

As of that date, the moving average exchange rate stood at P52.55 to the dollar compared to P52.81 at the start of the period.

Given recent trends, however, it is likely that PLDT will petition for another rate cut in the coming weeks.

The peso has continued its bull run against the dollar due mainly to sustained remittances from overseas Filipino workers, rising portfolio investments due to improving investor confidence, aided by a dollar that is weakening against most major currencies around the world.

According to the central bank's data, the peso's average against the dollar stood at P51.82 in February and P51.31 so far this month.



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MWSS OKs Maynilad concession bid terms

Deal attracts prospective investors

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System have approved the terms of reference that will govern the re-privatization of Manila's west water concession area.

This was confirmed by Government Corporate Counsel Agnes Devanadera in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Devanadera said that the terms of reference, which was drafted by financial adviser ABN-AMRO, would be circulated among creditor-banks of Maynilad Water Services Inc. for approval.

She said the terms provided for the auction of the right to subscribe to the 84 percent controlling equity in Maynilad, which was being held by the MWSS.

"There is, however, another issue that has to be addressed, the $3-million of Suez Lyonnais des Eaux. The amount was said to be part of the capital infused into the company before the rehabilitation," Devanadera explained.

She said designated court receiver Rosario Bernaldo would study the issue and come up with the best possible solution.

"The TOR will be finalized for possible release and issuance next week," Bernaldo said in another interview.

She noted that inputs of French partner Suez Lyonnais des Eaux and other issues would be presented to other creditors such as Credit Agricole, Indosuez Merchant Bank Asia Ltd., Citibank NA, Barclays Bank PLC and BNP Paribas, Equitable PCI-Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and Development Bank of the Philippine this week.

"This would be our best effort to immediately transfer the management of the west zone from the government back to private hands," according to Justice Oscar I. Garcia, chair of the MWSS board of trustee.

The terms of reference also spelled out the criteria to be used in the selection of new investors in Maynilad. The winning bidder will take over and continue the operations of the west zone for the remaining years of the 25-year concession.

Maynilad, formerly controlled by the Lopez Group's Benpres Holdings Inc., last year recorded a net income of P2.2 billion. This was attributed to savings from lower interest charges and cuts in production costs, officials said.

Garcia said two Chinese investors had signified interest in bidding for the west concession.

The others interested in the project are DMCI Holdings, the consortium composed of ING Barings, the Ayala Group and Merrill Lynch Plc., First Pacific Holdings Ltd. and the AMA Group of Amable Aguiluz.

Maynilad covers all of Manila except San Andres and Sta. Ana, parts of Quezon City, parts of Makati, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Malabon, Cavite City and some towns of Cavite province.

NatFoods posts 6% sales growth

NATIONAL FOODS LTD. YESTERDAY said its net sales in the first two months of the year grew 6 percent to A$268 million (about US$196 million, P10 billion), as volumes grew and the company's products gained better coverage.

The company, a subsidiary of food and beverage firm San Miguel Corp. in Australia, reported in a disclosure that volume from January to February grew 4.3 percent.

Volume for all its principal products – milk, yogurt and juice – rose, it said. Domestic sales of cheese and gourmet foods and other specialty products, as well as exports, meanwhile, went up by more than 30 percent.

National Foods said improvements in distribution were seen in milk sales in route, juice and yogurt in groceries, and bulk cream and cheese sales in new areas.

It said its distribution focus and better coverage were a result of its close coordination and combined sales team with Berri Ltd., another San Miguel subsidiary operating in Australia.

Earnings before income tax grew 9 percent, it said, "driven partly by the synergy benefits from the integration."

National Foods said it would be "more active in marketing its new and exciting products in milk and juice."

"A new packaging design will be rolled out for Big M and more below-the-line activities are planned for Farmers Union Iced Coffee. In the juice category, the media campaign of Daily Juice and Australian Fresh is being well-received by consumers, opening new opportunities to create excitement in the market," it said.

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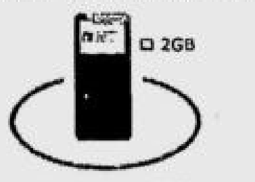

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Dee leads Colegio awardees

PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT advocate and Letran Knight Howard Dee and 12 others will receive today this year's Colegio Awards to be given by Colegio de San Juan de Letran.

Dee receives the San Vicente Liem de la Paz Award for most distinguished alumnus.

Other Letran Knights to receive the Colegio Awards are Agrarian Reform Secretary Datu Nasser Pangandaman who gets the Manuel Quezon Award for government service, George Wong, Jun Hector Tiu and Lionel Javier who get the Don Juan Geronimo Guerrero Award for Letranism, Pinoy Big Brother's Laurenti Dyogi, businessmen Mariano Cua and Geronimo Berenguer delos Reyes, educator Fernan Lukban, and sportsman Antonio Chua will receive the Knight of Letran Award for outstanding professionals.

Teresita Ang See and the Love 14/Bulgari Foundation receive the Fray Diego de Sta. Maria Award for public service.

The awarding ceremonies will be held today at 3:00 p.m. at the San Vicente Liem dela Paz auditorium.

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2 executive orders seen affecting vegetable trade

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE Cordillera's vegetable industry may lose more of its market to imported goods if no measures are adopted to counter two executive orders seeking to reduce and remove tariffs, a provincial official said.

Board Member John Kim said local farmers must be wary of Executive Order Nos. 485 and 487 which seek to overhaul import taxes on imported vegetables starting Jan. 1 this year.

Kim said the orders, signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo last year, sought to cut taxes imposed on 214 tariff lines to zero and to reduce 1,124 other tariffs on local products, including vegetables.

Kim said the province's farmers, who produce 70 percent of the country's vegetable supply, may soon find their produce at the mercy of foreign vegetables once the zero tariff rate of the EOs gets into full play.

"Before, our vegetables suffered from smuggling. Now, [the problem is] the entry of [imported] vegetables through low or reduced taxes," he said.

The orders were issued as part of the government's commitment to the establishment of a free trade zone between members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and China.

The province was invited by the Department of Agriculture to participate in defining the country's special products that need to be given full domestic support in the light of the changes in the international trade of fruits and vegetables.

"We could use the special products formulation to seek safeguards or exemption for local vegetables that would be adversely affected by the two orders," he said.

Kim had asked the province's vegetable industry leaders to push for the inclusion of the following vegetables as special products: potatoes, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, cabbage, celery, green and red pepper, mushroom and strawberry.

Close to 300,000 farmers in the province produce these vegetables that the Department of Agriculture estimated to contribute P18 billion a year to the economy. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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LIVING WITH THE FISHES
Bangus, the country's national fish, plays an important role in Dagupan City as its production, trade and processing benefit hundreds of fishpond owners, caretakers, fish vendors and processors. About 30 tons of bangus are harvested daily and the bulk pass through the Magsaysay Fish Market, the biggest in the city.

Bimp-Eaga not living up to promise, DTI official says

DAVAO CITY—THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION between Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines hardly pushed Mindanao's economic development, a ranking Trade official said.

Merly Cruz, director of the Department of Trade and Industry in Southern Mindanao, said terror threats and other peace and order concerns have stunted Mindanao's expected growth under the East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) program.

BIMP-Eaga cooperation was established in 1994 under the Ramos administration to restore economic links between neighboring countries as well as trade between Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan.

The growth areas from the Philippines include Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, Socsargen, Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Caraga and Palawan.

Earlier, Romeo Serra, incoming chair of the private sector-led BIMP-Eaga Business Council (BEBC), said Mindanao still has to experience tangible results from the initiative even as Eaga celebrates its 12th anniversary this year.

Serra said if concrete results were not observed in a year's time, then the BEBC would likely recommend the dismantling of the BIMP-Eaga framework.

But Cruz said the economic cooperation had brought positive developments on other fronts.

She cited the legalization of the so-called backdoor trading activities, and investments made within the member countries.

Cruz also said the BIMP-Eaga program heightened consciousness among business leaders in both government and private sector on what policies to amend and continue to adopt.

"If we look at (Serra)'s statements, maybe by the end of the year, we will see results. I don't fear his proposal. That's a signal for us to work fast," she said. *Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CURRENCIES

March 14, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.835841	1.000000	51.2590
Japan	Yen	0.007036	0.008418	0.4315
United Kingdom	Pound	1.448345	1.732800	88.8216
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107724	0.128881	6.6063
Canada	Dollar	0.721922	0.863707	44.2728
Singapore	Dollar	0.514364	0.615385	31.5440
Australia	Dollar	0.612024	0.732225	37.5331
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.217908	2.653505	136.0160
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222885	0.266660	13.6687
Brunei	Dollar	0.512786	0.613497	31.4472
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000090	0.000108	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021361	0.025556	1.3100
UAE	Dirham	0.227589	0.272287	13.9572
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.196400	61.3263
Argentina	Peso	0.271377	0.324675	16.6425
Brazil	Real	0.392396	0.469462	24.0642
India	Rupee	0.018834	0.022533	1.1550
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224809	0.268962	13.7867
Mexico	New Peso	0.077905	0.093205	4.7776
New Zealand	Dollar	0.535864	0.641108	32.8626
Korea	Won	0.000853	0.001020	0.0523
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025756	0.030815	1.5795
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000390	0.000466	0.0239

AYALA LAND, INC.

INVITATION TO BID

ALI Bid Sale No. 02-2006

Ayala Land, Inc. is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following items:

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF ITEMS	MINIMUM BID
Lot 1	Nineteen (19) units Transformers Wet Type ABB - 15 units 100kVA capacity 3 units 50kVA capacity - 1 unit 37.5 kVA capacity	ALI-MMD, Bldg 6, EDSA corner McKinley Road, Makati City	P150,000.00
Lot 2	One (1) unit Air Cooled Water Chiller 200HO, 200V, 60Hz	Greenbelt 1 Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City	P150,000.00
Lot 3	Two (2) units Inline Centrifugal Fan	Greenbelt 1 Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City	P20,000.00
Lot 4	One (1) lot Air ducts, hangers and supports	Greenbelt 1 Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City	P1,000.00

Complete description of the items including the bid documents (Bid Forms, Bidders Tender and Instructions to Bidders) are available at Ayala Land, Inc - Materials Management Division (ALI-MMD), Bldg 6, EDSA corner McKinley Road, Makati City. Contact person: Mr. Roy L. Lavapiez, Telephone No 818-7471 (loc 100)

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at ALI-MMD Warehouse Section on or before March 20, 2006 at exactly two o'clock p.m. The bids shall be labeled ALI-BID SALE No 02-2006.

Bidder's deposit equivalent to ten (10) percent of the bid price in Cash (Philippine Currency) or in Certified Manager's Check in favor of Ayala Land, Inc. shall be enclosed with the sealed bid. Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable. A bid without the required bidder's bond shall be declared disqualified.

The bidder must sign the bid form, bidders tender and the sealed envelop across its flap. Unsigned documents shall be a ground for the disqualification of the bid offer. Any erasure, correction, and/or addition must be initialed by the bidder.

The sealed bids will be opened in the presence of the representatives from ALI-MMD, ALI-Audit and Systems, all participating bidders or their representatives and other interested parties.

The sale of the items shall be on an "As is, Where is" basis. The winning bidder shall undertake the full responsibility to acquire the necessary permits in order to have peaceful possession of the items included in the sale.

Upon evaluation and determination of the result of the bidding, a Notice of Award will be issued to the winning bidder. In the event that the winning bidder refuses to accept the award and/or abide by the conditions of the bid, the bid deposit will be forfeited in favor of ALI. The award shall then be given to the next qualified highest bidder.

Upon the winning bidder's acceptance of the Notice of Award, full payment must be made within three (3) working days at ALI-Treasury, 30/F Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Makati City. This will be in the form of cash or manager's check in favor of Ayala Land, Inc. A penalty of ten (10) percent of the bid price plus an additional interest based on the prevailing market rate shall be imposed if the winning bidder fails to withdraw the merchandise from the designated storage area after seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Award.

The award shall be made to the bidder who made the most advantageous offer to Ayala Land, Inc. ALI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein.

All awards shall be subject to the approval of the head of ALI's Materials Management Division and the ALI Comptroller whose decision shall be binding on all concerned.

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Materials Management Division

(PDI—March 15, 2006)

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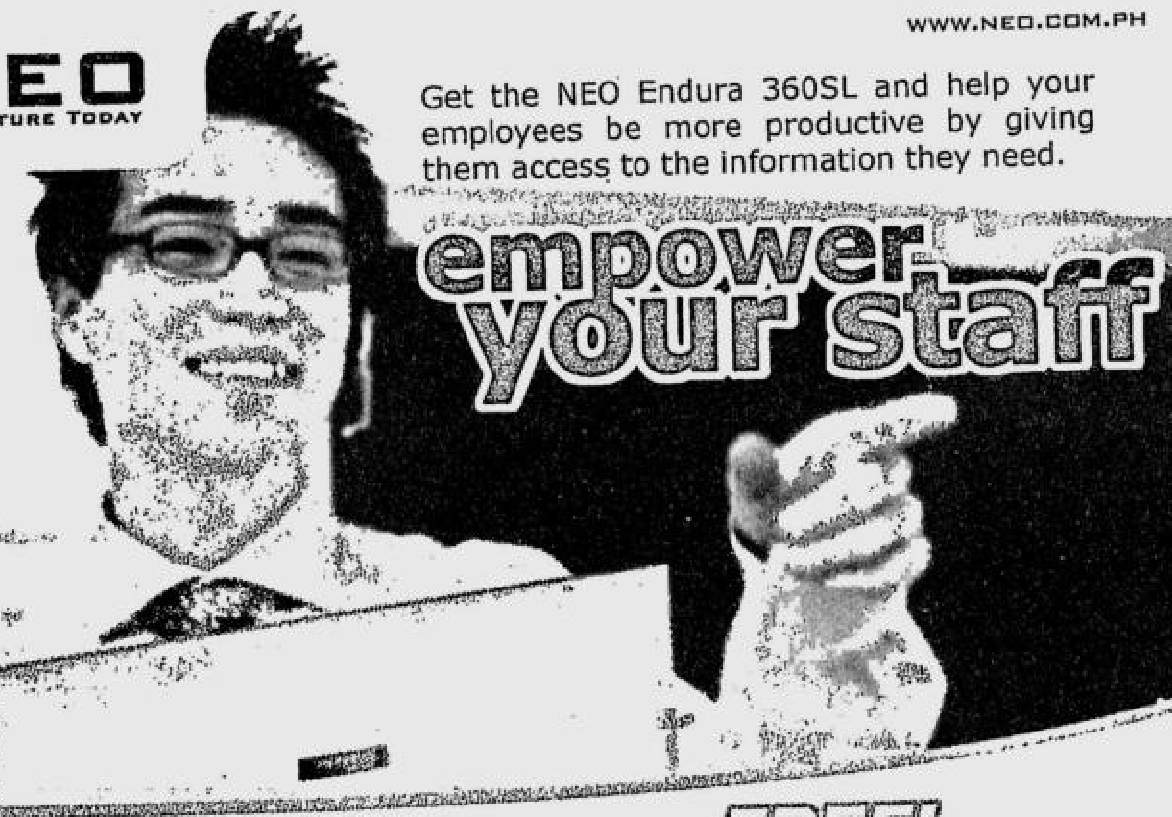

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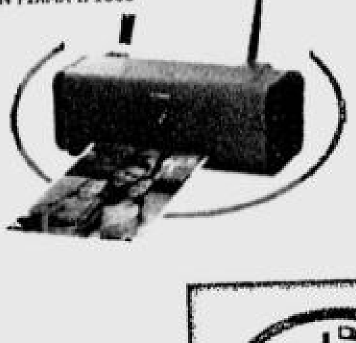

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See Flyers for Details.

Promo period is from Feb. 11 - Mar. 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit #0631. Series of 2006.

Globe G-Cash for ICT-based entrepreneurship

G-CASH, THE REVOLUTIONARY CASHLESS and cardless mobile commerce service from Globe, was one of the innovative technologies featured and recognized as an enabler of information and communication technology (ICT)-based entrepreneurship at the infoDev Asian Regional Workshop held in Manila recently.

The workshop, titled "Promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Asia: Strategies and Partnerships," was led by renowned business consultants and industry experts, and attended by international delegates from both the public and private sectors. It tackled the challenges and issues faced by start-up Asian entrepreneurs, including the role of the public sector, access to financing for small and medium enterprises, and catalysts of and barriers to innovation. infoDev is a global partnership of international development agencies that promotes the effective use of ICT to help combat poverty in developing countries. The UP-Ayala Technology Business Incubator, an experimental facility created through a partnership between the University of the Philippines and the Ayala Foundation, spearheads the infoDev program in the Philippines.

AT THE INFODEV Asian Regional Workshop, G-Xchange Inc president Rizza Maniego-Eala expounds on the entrepreneurial opportunities made possible by Globe G-Cash

Rizza Maniego-Eala, president of G-Xchange Inc (the wholly owned Globe Telecom subsidiary that pioneered G-Cash), discussed the potential of G-Cash as a mobile commerce (m-commerce) business solution during the session on developing products for entrepreneurship. The presentation emphasized the various ways by which G-Cash has broadened access to financial services for micro-entrepreneurs, particularly in remote rural areas and low-income regions throughout the country. Using the project with the National Confederation of Cooperatives (Natcco) as a business case, Eala explained how G-Cash has made it possible for over a million Natcco members-mostly farmers, fisherfolk, self-employed small business owners, and blue-collar workers--to easily avail themselves of financing services from their local cooperatives and make payments on time.

A similar initiative is the G-Cash Text-A-Payment service, which is being implemented in cooperation with the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) through its Microenterprise Access to Banking Services program (MABS), with support from the USAid. By allowing rural bank clients to remit their weekly loan amortization via G-Cash, the Text-A-Payment service helps entrepreneurs in rural areas save on both time and money. Aside from micro-credit payments, G-Cash also enables domestic and international remittances, bills payment, and purchases of common consumer goods such as prepaid load, over-the-counter medicines and fast food items all through a simple text message.

"G-Cash is a breakthrough in m-commerce because it uses an existing and pervasive technology, SMS, to provide a truly mobile and convenient solution for the financial needs of both entrepreneurs and consumers," Eala stressed. "It offers an innovative and efficient ICT-based strategy that can be applied by Filipino entrepreneurs in various business ventures, and could also provide a useful model for other entrepreneurial initiatives in the Asian region."

Introduced in October 2004, G-Cash has already earned various national and international accolades, including the prestigious "Best Mobile Messaging Service" award from the GSM Association. It has a wide network of partners, including government agencies, utility companies, rural banks, cooperatives, insurance companies, universities, and commercial establishments. Already accepted in 14 countries worldwide, its services were used by over 1.2 million Filipinos in 2005.

Globe Telecom also hosted a special "Philippine Night" with the Bayanihan Dance Company at the Ayala Museum on the first day of the conference, where Eala delivered the opening remarks to welcome the delegates.

CTB BOARD PAYS COURTESY CALL ON BSP GOVERNOR

The newly elected 2006 officers and directors of the Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB), the umbrella organization of the country's 84 thrift banks, recently paid a courtesy call on Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco (center). Led by CTB president Alfonso Salcedo Jr-president, BPI Family Savings Bank (6th from left) and 2006 Convention chair Alfredo Yao-chair, Philippine Business Bank (8th from left), the association will be holding the 2006 CTB convention with the theme 'Responding to the Challenges Ahead' on March 17 at the Baguio Country Club. The annual convention is the highlight of the celebration of the Thrift Banking Week and is expected to draw top industry professionals from all over the country. Other CTB officers and directors who were present at the courtesy call were (from left): Rogelio Florete (president, Queen City Development Bank), Benjamin Yambao (president, The Manila Banking Corp), Corazon Balinas (president, World Partners Bank), Ma. Consorcia Tamayo (president, University Savings & Loan Bank), Belen Castro (president, Premiere Development Bank), CTB executive director Suzanne Felix, Violeta Inocencio (president, Farmers Savings & Loan Bank), Tomas Clemente Jr (president, Luzon Development Bank), Eric Mondragon (president, Palawan Development Bank), and Dionisio Ong (president, Asiatrust Bank). For inquiries, call 812-7704.

2006 Epilepsy Exemplar Awards

THE PHILIPPINE LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY (PLAE), in cooperation with Abbott Laboratories, has launched a nationwide search for the 2006 Epilepsy Exemplar Awards. Four winners will be given the awards this year. They will receive cash prizes, trophies and the opportunity to be PLAE Ambassadors of Epilepsy.

Each nominee must be a Filipino citizen, 8 to 65 years old, diagnosed to have epilepsy, with pleasing personality and good oral communication skills. He/she must be willing to act as spokesperson and role model for patients with epilepsy.

Criteria for judging include good seizure control, ideal patient behavior in complying with his medical treatments, positive attitudes toward his condition such as optimism, self-determination and independence that allows him to live a normal life and academic/professional achievements.

Persons with epilepsy may be nominated in writing by their family, friends, teachers, classmates or co-workers. Nomination forms may be obtained from their neurologist's clinics, the PLAE secretariat or downloaded from the PLAE website www.plae.org.ph. The nominees must each accomplish a nominee information sheet and answer a five-item questionnaire. These must be submitted to the PLAE secretariat along with photocopies of the nominee's credentials. The deadline of submission of nominations is on April 30.

Winners of this year's search will be awarded in formal ceremonies during the 5th National Epilepsy Awareness Week Celebration from Sep. 4 to 10.

For more information, call the PLAE secretariat (Department of Neurosciences, Philippine General Hospital/Vanessa Chan at 525-4996) or 2006 Epilepsy Awards project chair Dr. Hazel Paragua, Cardinal Santos Medical Center at 727-0001 local 2176.

SHOPPER WINS OVALTINE POWER-'PANDAY' PRIZE

Lolita Casipit of Balubaran, Caloocan recently won one of many Gold Card prizes found in lucky Ovaltine Power packs nationwide. With her 'Movie Star' package, Casipit has the chance to appear in the 'Panday' TV series, stay in a high-class hotel, avail herself of professional grooming services and have dinner with the 'Panday' stars. You can also have a chance of winning over a thousand other prizes if you buy any pack of Ovaltine Power now. Shown holding the winning Ovaltine Power pack is Casipit with her granddaughter Natalie holding the winning Gold Card. Joining them are Celia Del Rosario, BFAD representative, Marco Torres, Ovaltine Power senior product manager, and Anthony Co, Puregold Price Club-Valenzuela assistant store manager.

Top Picks

Congratulations to the winners of the 1st Young Market Masters Awards!

The Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA) is an award that recognizes excellence and innovation of marketing and sales managers who are 35 years old and below. It is officially endorsed by the **Philippine Franchise Association** and the **Philippine Retailers Association**, with **TNS Trends** as the official research partner, **Businessworld** and the **Philippine Daily Inquirer** as official print partners.

Recognizing the young and rising stars of marketing in the Philippines, the YMMA has made its picks. Not only have they sold good marketing ideas, but they have sold themselves with sound frameworks and supporting wits.

The first batch of awardees are composed of Edison Oribiana (Business Development Manager of Davies Paint), Joseph Cruel (Senior Product Manager of URC), Carole Lopez (Product Manager of Merck, Sharp and Dohme), Jade Tulio (VP-Marketing of HBC), Anson Dichaves (Regional Director for Customer Development Training of Unilever), and Ricarte Gapuz, Jr. (Chairman of R. A. Gapuz Review Center), with Mansmith & Fielders, Inc. Chairman and YMMA founder Josiah Go (at center).

Board of judges include Dr. Rodolfo Ang (Dean of the John Gokongwei School of Management of the Ateneo De Manila University), Samie Lim (Chairman Emeritus of the Philippine Retailers Association), and Diosdado Salvador, Jr. (former President of J&J in the Asean Region and Managing Consultant of Lamoiyan Corporation).

The 1st Young Market Masters Awards night will be on March 16, 2006 at The Forum 3 of the Philippine International Convention Center.

Interested to know more about the awards night and be inspired? Please text 0920-9223732 and visit www.mansmith.net.

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China's legislature endorses economic program

BEIJING—CHINA'S CEREMONIAL LEGISLATURE on Tuesday endorsed a government plan calling for lower-than-expected 8 percent economic growth in 2006, while Premier Wen Jiabao rebuffed speculation over further currency adjustments.

On the last day of its session, the National People's Congress approved a five-year economic blueprint including the forecast—a sharp drop from the 9.9 percent the economy grew last year.

The government expects growth to level out at an annual average of 7.5 percent for the next five years "on the basis of reduced energy consumption and pollution discharge," Xinhua said.

China's planners have repeatedly forecast lower rates of growth, only to see them consistently surpassed despite efforts to cut back on bank lending and land acquisitions for real estate projects and industrial parks.

The World Bank and other analysts have projected economic growth at above 9 percent this year.

Meanwhile, the premier said Tuesday that China sees no need for further one-off administrative changes in the exchange rate of its currency following a decision last July to drop its direct link to the US dollar.

"There will be no more surprises," Wen said at a nationally televised news conference.

Wen said the current system, which bases the value of the Chinese yuan on a group of global currencies, allows enough flexibility for the currency, also known as the renminbi, to fluctuate on its own.

"It is no longer necessary for us to take a one-off administrative means to affect the movement of the renminbi either upward or downward," he said.

China raised the yuan's value by 2.1 percent against the US dollar when it changed its exchange rate system in July, and the currency has risen by about 0.7 percent against the dollar since then.

The United States and other trading partners have been pressing Beijing to raise the yuan's value further, saying it is undervalued and gives Chinese exporters and unfair price advantage.

Chinese leaders say they plan eventually to let the yuan trade freely on world markets. But they say that to do so immediately would lead to financial turmoil and damage China's fragile banks and other financial industries.

Wen also reiterated the government's intention to retain controlling stakes in China's state-owned commercial banks, China Premier Wen Jiabao said Tuesday.

"The state must take a dominant, controlling share" in state-owned commercial banks, Wen said. *AP*

Asian shares close flat; energy, media issues rise

SYDNEY—ASIAN STOCK MARKETS WERE flat to marginally lower on Tuesday as concerns about higher inflation and interest rates dampened the mood, but energy stocks such as Woodside Petroleum and Nippon Mining rose.

Sentiment was cautious ahead of key US economic data, including retail sales due later on Tuesday and consumer prices on Thursday, which encouraged investors to book profits after recent gains, traders said.

Wall Street was flat on Monday.

"The market has risen quite a bit over the past two days, so the flat finish in the US market could be used as a reason for some profit-taking and consolidation," said Choo Hee-yeop, deputy general manager of asset management strategy at Korea Investment and Securities.

By yesterday afternoon, the Nikkei share average was down 0.03 percent, but KDDI Corp. rose 1.9 percent on a report that the telecoms operator may increase its annual dividend.

Nippon Mining Holdings Inc., Japan's top smelter, added 1.9 percent, helped by rising copper prices.

Seoul shares edged lower, with the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) falling 0.22 percent after rising 2.1 percent in the past two sessions.

Exporters such as Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. were hit by higher oil prices, but investors pushed up Hyundai Motor Co. 1.6 percent as some thought that recent worries over earnings had been overdone.

Posco Co. Ltd., the world's fifth-biggest steel maker, fell 1.2 percent, tracking losses in its ADRs.

Earnings optimism lifted local shares to a new peak on Monday.

Australian shares eased but energy stocks such as Woodside Petroleum rose 1.8 percent due to firmer oil prices, while media issues like John Fairfax Holdings Ltd. firmed 2.8 percent on hopes of industry consolidation.

The Australian government will unveil proposals to remove cross-media and foreign ownership restrictions, the Australian Financial Review reported on Tuesday. *Reuters*

Japan faces debt woes

TOKYO—THE OUTLOOK for Japan's economy is the brightest for a long time but the government now has a big challenge cutting its debt mountain without derailing the recovery, the OECD head said Tuesday.

"It's a much more optimistic picture, frankly, than I've seen for a long time," said Donald Johnston, the outgoing secretary general of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Japan's debt is the highest among industrialized nations after its government spent trillions of yen on emergency stimulus packages to try to haul the economy out of its deflationary doldrums after an asset bubble burst.

Jeffrey Owens, director of the OECD center for tax policy and administration, told reporters that Japan should raise its politically sensitive sales tax to 8 percent from the current 5 percent to increase government revenues.

Confidence is growing that the world's second-largest economy is finally on a solid recovery path after its decade-long slump, as reflected by the central bank's decision last week to scrap its five-year ultra-loose monetary policy. *AFP*

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- Internal FDD: 3.5inch (1.44MB/720KB)
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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Procurement of IT Equipments and other PPE items

1. The Commission on Audit, Region X, intends to apply the sum of Four Million Nine Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Pesos (Php 4,947,000.00) broken down as follows:

ITEM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	Sub-ABC
Lot I	67 units **COMPUTERS**, Branded CPU compatible with 32 bit-64bit simultaneously, 1.8 GHz Capable to run on multiple platforms 1 MB cache level 2 On-board graphics controller 512 MB Memory, dual memory channel, 3 x 6.4 Gbps hypertransport link With built-in Firewire ports (IEEE1394) 80 GB Serial ATA, 7200 rpm DVD ROM Drive 15" color monitor Keyboard & mouse with pad AVR 500W 3 yrs warranty	Php 3,819,000.00
	1 unit **COMPUTER**, Branded CPU compatible with 32 bit-64bit simultaneously, 1.8 GHz Capable to run on multiple platforms 1 MB cache level 2 On-board graphics controller 1 GB Memory, dual memory channel, 3 x 6.4 Gbps hypertransport link With built-in Firewire ports (IEEE1394) 80 GB Serial ATA, 7200 rpm DVD ROM Drive 15" color monitor Keyboard & mouse with pad AVR 500W 3 yrs warranty	65,000.00
	30 units **UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY**, 650 VA (410W)	201,000.00
	20 units **COMPUTER TABLE**, Steel Frame, SIGMA	60,000.00
	14 units **PRINTERS**, Hp Laser Jet Print Speed: up to 19ppm resolution: up to 1200 x 1200 dpi Memory: 8MB	280,000.00
	3 units **LAPTOP COMPUTERS**, Branded Centrino duo (core duo processor) Processor Speed: 2 0 GHz/533 MHz FSB, 2-MB L2 cache RAM: DDR2 SDRAM 512 MB Floppy Drive: 1.44 MB CD Drive: CR-RW/ DVD-ROM Combo Drive Hard Disk Drive: 50 GB 5400 rpm Serial ATA NIC: 10/100 Mbps Keyboard and Mouse Modem: RJ-11 Modem Audio Port OEM: Windows XP Professional	252,000.00 Php 4,677,000.00
Lot II	**FIBER OPTIC BACKBONE & ACTIVE COMPONENTS:** 200 mts Fiber Optic Cable, 8 core, multi-mode 2 units Fiber Optic Panel, 8 port 2 units Fiber Optic Cable Manager, 2 RU with cover 16 units Fiber Optic Connectors 2 units Fiber Optic Patch Cord 1 unit Data Cabinet, Floor mount, 6ft, plexiglass with exhaust fan 1 unit 3Com Baseline Switch, 24 port 10/100, 2-10/100/1000 2 units 3Com 1000Base SX SFP transceiver 1 lot Cable Laying Works & Materials 1 lot Fiber Optic Termination & Connection Works VAT 12%	Php 270,000.00

being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of IT Equipments and other PPE items. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

2. Interested Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting March 13 to 16, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) from the BAC Secretariat, c/o RCD Hesselinda A. Valencia, ☎ (088) 858-7422, COA Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Oro City.
3. The Commission on Audit will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 17, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at COA Conference Room, COA Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Oro City.
4. Deadline for submission of Bids shall be on March 30, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., at COA Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Oro City. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address.
5. The Commission on Audit reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) FELIX P. ALBINDA
, Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
☎ (088) 858-2964
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(PDI--March 9 & 15, 2006)

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Challenge #5: Discovering the Servant Leader Within. Be inspired with one of UK's youngest millionaire entrepreneurs and now Gawad Kalinga's benefactor, **Dylan Wilk,** as he shows the strengths he sees in Filipinos and how they can be maximized to turn around the lives of Filipinos and of the country.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City Metro Manila
Philippines

IN THE MATTER OF:

LEAD LENDING CORP.

SEC Admin. Case No. 10-03-74
For: Revocation of Certificate of Registration

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT (CED),
Petitioner.
x--x

O R D E R

It appearing that copy of the Show Cause Order dated 05 November 2003 issued by the Office of the General Counsel to respondent Lead Lending Corp. by way of personal delivery was returned unserved for the reason that the respondent corporation no longer holds office at the last known business address, the issuance of Summons by Publication is in order.

Wherefore, let a service of summons by way of publication of the Show Cause Order, this Order and the Petition for Revocation of Certificate of Registration that was filed against respondent corporation be issued to respondent Lead Lending Corp. and its incorporators namely: *Gaudencio C. Maximo, Analiza A. Apolto, Nelanie P. Lacson, Imelda P. Maximo, and Elizabeth A. Tan* pursuant to Rule 14, Section 14 of the Rules of Court, which is suppletorily applicable to SEC Circular No. 4, s. 2001.

Accordingly, all publication expenses shall be borne by petitioner.

SO ORDERED.

Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

14 July 2005.

VERNETTE G. UMALI-PACO
General Counsel

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City Metro Manila
Philippines

IN THE MATTER OF:

LEAD LENDING CORP.

SEC Admin. Case No. 10-03-74
For: Revocation of Certificate of Registration

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT (CED),
Petitioner.
x--x

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO:	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
LEAD LENDING CORP.	8193 A.C. Raftel Center Dr. A. Santos Avenue Sucat, Parañaque City Branch Office: 1861 Evangelista St. Brgy. Pio Del Pilar Makati City
GAUDENCIO C. MAXIMO	B-44 L-37, S. Batac Street BF Executive Homes Parañaque City
ANALIZA A. APOLTO	128 Silver St., Bernabe Subdivision Parañaque City
NELANIE P. LACSON	137 Tiongguiao St., Gatchalian Vill. Las Piñas City
IMELDA P. MAXIMO	B-43 L-2, Phase III Casimiro Subd. Novaliches, Quezon City
ELIZABETH A. TAN	1485 B-3 A. Rivera Street Tondo, Manila

Greetings:

WHEREAS, on 23 October 2003, a verified Petition for Revocation of Certificate of Registration, a copy of which is attached as Annex "A", was filed against respondent corporation by the Compliance and Enforcement Department, for the alleged violation of Sec. 8.1 of the Securities Regulation Code on account of the corporation's unauthorized offering, solicitation and placement of investments from the general public by way of executing and issuing "Share A Fortune" agreements and promissory notes which promised a hefty return of investment from 48% to 70% per year making the mode of offering public in character; and that such securities offered and distributed were not covered by a registration statement duly filed and approved by the Commission, causing grave and irreparable injury to the investing public;

WHEREAS, on 05 November 2003, General Counsel Vernette G. Umali-Paco issued a Show Cause Order, a copy of which is attached as Annex "B", requiring the above-named respondent corporation to show cause why the respondent corporation's certificate of registration should not be revoked for the reasons invoked by the petitioner;

WHEREAS, copy of the aforementioned Show Cause Order that was furnished respondent corporation both by personal delivery and registered mail was returned unserved for the reason that the respondent corporation no longer holds office at the last known business address as stated above;

WHEREAS, on 14 July 2005, the Office of the General Counsel issued an Order for the service of summons by publication, a copy of which is attached as Annex "C";

NOW, THEREFORE, you, respondents Lead Lending Corp. and its incorporators namely: *Gaudencio C. Maximo, Analiza A. Apolto, Nelanie P. Lacson, Imelda P. Maximo, and Elizabeth A. Tan* are hereby directed to file with the Office of the General Counsel, Securities and Exchange Commission, 9th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, within thirty (30) days from the date of the publication of this Summons, your answer to the Petition and to send a copy thereof to the Petitioner. If you fail to do so within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief prayed for in the Petition.

Let this Summons and its Annexes be published once in a newspaper of general circulation at the expense of the petitioner.

Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

14 July 2005.

VERNETTE G. UMALI-PACO
General Counsel

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

In the Matter of

LEAD LENDING CORPORATION

CED Case No. 02-2743

For: Violations of Sec. 8.1 of the Securities Regulation Code and Sec. 45 of the Corporation Code

X ------------------------------ X

PETITION
FOR
REVOCATION OF CORPORATE REGISTRATION

COMES NOW petitioner Compliance and Enforcement Department (CED) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) through the undersigned counsels and unto this Honorable Commission, most respectfully states that :

1. On 22 May 2003, the CED filed a Motion for an Issuance of a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) against lead LENDING CORPORATION (LEAD LENDING for brevity) for soliciting, offering and distributing investment contracts and issuing promissory notes, hence securities, to the general investing public without the required licensed duly filed with and approved by this Commission;

2. LEAD LENDING is a domestic corporation registered with the SEC on 8 April 1998 with SEC Registration No. A199805581 and with principal office address at 8193 A.C. Raftel Ctr., Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Paranaque, Metro Manila as indicated in its Articles of Incorporation.[1] The primary purpose of said corporation is "to engage in business as lending investor without however engaging in pawnbroker unde[2]r P.D. 114 and financing under R.A. 5980, provided that borrowing shall be sourced from not more than 19 lenders." [2] The names of company's incorporators, who are all Filipino citizens, and with their respective addresses where they may be served with subpoenas and other processes of this Honorable Office, are as follows :

Name	Address
1. Gaudencio C. Maximo	B-44 L-37 S. Batac St., BF Executive Homes, Paranaque City,
2.Analiza A. Apolto	128 Silver St., Bernabe Subdivision, Paranaque City
3.Nelanie P. Lacson	137 Tionguiao St., Gatchalian Village, Las Piñas City
4.Imelda P. Maximo,	B-43 L-2 Phase III Casimiro Subdivision, Novaliches, Quezon City
5.Elizabeth A. Tan	1485 B-3 A. Rivera St., Tondo, City of Manila

3. Finding a prima facie case of an unauthorized offering, solicitations, and placement of investments from the general public by LEAD LENDING, this Honorable Office issued a CDO on 30 May 2003 against said respondent corporation from engaging in said activities to which respondent corporation failed to file a Motion to Lift the same despite notice;

4. From the documents presented as evidence by the CED and as noted by this Honorable Office in its said Order, it appears that Lead Lending also holds a branch office at 1861 Evangelista St., Brgy. Pio del Pilar, Makati City;

5. These documents received by the CED from various complainants show that respondent corporation had been sourcing funds from at least ninety (90) lenders in the guise of executing and issuing "Share A Fortune" agreements and promissory notes which promised a hefty return of investment from 48% to 70% per year. It will be noted that the intention of Lead Lending to offer said securities to the public at large may be seen from the increasing number of investors per year, the same reaching at least sixty-four (64) in 2002;

6. These investment contracts or profit-making ventures are within the context of "securities" as defined under Section 3.1 of the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) which are "shares, participation or interests in a corporation or in a commercial enterprise or profit making venture and evidenced by a certificate, contract, instrument, whether written or electronic in character". It includes "investments contracts" and "evidences of indebtedness"[3];

7. Section 8.1 of the SRC requires that securities, regardless of form, "shall not be sold or offered for sale or distribution within the Philippines without a registration statement duly filed with and approved by the Commission";

8. The Corporate Finance Department of the SEC has issued a Certification dated 15 October 2003 that LEAD LENDING CORPORATION "is not a registered issuer of securities". Hence, the above-named corporation is not authorized to sell or offer securities to the public.[4]

9. Therefore, in issuing "Share A Fortune" agreements, promissory notes and post-dated checks to at least Eighty-Six (86) investors-lenders in the total amount of not less than ₱27,436,054.00 Lead Lending violated Section 8.1 of the SRC. Under Article 1, Rule I of SEC Circular No.4, series of 2001, the same constitute a ground for revocation of corporate franchise;

10. Hereunder are the investors-lenders whom the herein respondents issued investment contracts, promissory notes and post-dated checks for and in behalf of the above named corporation:[5]

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE	AMOUNT
1. Mercado, Celia B.	37-B Herrera St., Brgy. Ibaba, Malabon, Metro Manila	17-Jan-01	264,000.00
2. Shirley Borja	37-B Herrera St., Brgy. Ibaba, Malabon, Metro Manila	15-Feb-01	600,000.00
3 Reyes, Meliza A.	49 Manzanitas St., Marist Village, Marikina City	20-Feb-01	300,000.00
4 Reyes, Meliza A.	49 Manzanitas St., Marist Village,Marikina City	20-Feb-01	300,000.00
5 Timajo, Eleanor P	B-44 L-19 Fatima II Dasmarinas, Cavite	7-Mar-01	100,000.00
6. Timajo, Eleanor P.	Blk. 44,Lot 19 Fatima II,Dasmarinas Cavite	7-Mar-01	100,000.00
7 Pineda, Jr. Carlos M	Blk. 39 Lot 21 Abrille St.BF Resort Vill Las Pinas	1-Apr-01	2,195,000.00
8 Zapata, Maricon L.	#7 Acuna Drive Proj 8 Quezon City	4-Apr-01	100,000.00
9 Morada, Harmony B.	164 A. Hernandez St., Catmon, Valenzuela City	15-May-01	355,000.00
10. Santos, Lorena M.	82 Narra St.Mariella Romeo Vill.Sta. Lucia Pasig City	5-Jun-01	100,000.00
11. Serrano, Agnes E.	876 Betina St. Sampaloc,Manila	7-Jun-01	211,200.00
12. Pinzon, Erlinda B.	L8B7A Zinia St. Modesta Vill. San Mateo Rizal	15-Jun-01	100,000.00
13. Bergonio Ramon	102 Lirio St. San Antonio Vill. Antipolo City	1-Aug-01	500,000.00
14. Bernales, Johnny B./or 15. Bernales, Melba T.	B1,L-12 Expressview Villas,Margarita St Muntinlupa	6-Nov-01	1,351,984.00
16. Cabanlig, Vivien B.	28 Vienna St., Merville Park, Paranaque City	Jan-02	50,000.00
17. Del Rosario, Ernesto 18. N / Reyes Julia,D.	1D Int.Benita Esteban St.Malibay,Pasay City	11-Jan-02	200,000.00
18. Padua, Edgardo F.	1861-0 Honradez St.cor.San Diego St Sampaloc,Mla.	14-Jan-02	1,292,620.00
19. Delos Santos,Clarisa I.	10 Dennis St. Gabriel II Hulong Duhat Malabon City	16-Jan-02	754,000.00
20. Lizarondo, Jennette	B-3 L-7 Humel Herritage Homes,Malolos Bulacan	17-Jan-02	250,000.00
21. DeSantos,E Roberto/ 22. DeSantos ,Beatrice, E.	98-Kanlaon St., Sta. Mesa Heights,Quezon City	23-Jan-02	756,600.00
22. Delmundo, Teodora, R.	B-4 L-10 Humel Heritage Homes, Malolos Bulacan	24-Jan-02	150,000.00
23. Esmalde, Carolyn	1108 Don Pedro St. Malate,Manila	3-Feb-02	480,000.00
24. Jimenez, Mercedita D.	4 Palma St. Filinvest 2,Batasan Hills Quezon City	8-Feb-02	450,000.00
25. De Ocampo, Milo F.	Blk. 4 D 1-3 Carvelle Homes Tanza Navotas	9-Feb-02	150,000.00
26. Ramiro, Lorelei A.	12 Jasmin, Dona Rosario Bayview, Sucat, Muntinlupa City	12-Feb-02	725,000.00
27. Manlucu, Lolita J.	38 San Nicolas 2, Magalang Pampanga	16-Feb-02	70,000.00
28. Tan, Joel S	57G Road 7 Proj 6 Quezon City	20-Feb-02	600,000.00
29. Opiz, Enrico C.	Blk. 42 Lot 9 Villa Palao, Banlic Calamba City	6-Mar-02	100,000.00
30 Opiz, Bernardita S.	42 Lot 9 Villa Palao,Banlic Calamba City	6-Mar-02	150,000.00
31. Timajo, Eleanor P.	B-44 L-19 Fatima II Dasmarinas, Cavite	7-Mar-02	100,000.00
32. Quito, Maria Linda U.	B-19 L-37 Phase 2 EP Village Western Bicutan Taguig MM.	14-Mar-02	50,000.00
33. Macasaet, Virginia B.	344 Elisa St. Caloocan City	21-Mar-02	400,000.00
34. Macasaet, Ma.Celerina/or Macasaet Leonardo	125 Hasmin St.Ayala Homes,Mandaluyong City	2-Apr-02	500,000.00
35. Barreros, Marideli L.	45 Pratt St.Filinvest 2,Batasan Hills,Quezon City	7-Apr-02	1,000,050.00
36. Lai, Edilia L.	1912 G. Tuazon St., Sampaloc, City of Manila	13-Apr-02	300,000.00
37. Ramiro, Lorelei A.	12 Jasmin, Dona Rosario Bayview, Sucat, Muntinlupa City	18-Apr-02	200,000.00
38. Antonio, Zenila A.	2029 Cabrera St. San Roque,Pasay City	22-Apr-02	700,000.00
39 Paño, Nenita V.	2553 Lt. Garcia St., Baclaran, Parañaque City	30-Apr-02	55,000.00
40. Bulasan, Leonardo U.	1080 Dela Reyna St.Rm 503 Binondo Manila	2-May-02	875,000.00
41. Santos, Erlinda N.	74 Unang Hakbang Street, Brgy. Sto. Nino, Quezon City	9-May-02	250,000.00
42. Santos, Erlinda N.	74 Unang Hakbang St.Sto Nino Quezon City	9-May-02	250,000.00
43. Morales, Jon-Jon	115 Tumbar Lingayen Pangasinan	28-May-02	200,000.00
44. Warren B. Morada	164 A. Hernandez St., Malabon City	30-May-02	50,000.00
45. Santos, Felipe M.	74 Unang Hakbang Street, Brgy. Sto. Nino, Quezon City	31-May-02	550,000.00
46 Oraiz, Dinah,Aranas	1828-E Anak Bayan St. Paco, Manila	3-Jun-02	100,000.00
47. Ultado, Solomon Z.	Blk. 113 Lot 12 Phase 2 Mabuhay City,Cabuyao Laguna	6-Jun-02	100,000.00
48. Aquino, Emelita and Aquino Danny F.	21 S Mateo St. Taytay Rizal	7-Jun-02	1,500,000.00
49. Mangosing, Teresita P.	2510 D. Lamayan St., Sta. Ana, City of Manila	9-Jun-02	75,000.00
50 Fernandez, Menandro	95 Agnesville Subd., Antipolo City	11-Jun-02	35,000.00
51 Lopez, Norma F.	B-19 L-16Adelina I Subd., San Pedro Laguna	20-Jun-02	200,000.00
52. Collante, Lilibeth S.	74 Unang Hakbang Street, Brgy. Sto. Nino, Quezon City	30-Jun-02	50,000.00
53. Limbaga, Teodora V.	B-17 L-4 Moonstone St., Golden City Subd., Taytay Rizal	12-Jul-02	100,000.00
54 Pajardo, Cynthia G.	#37 Dalton St.Filinvest East Antipolo City	12-Jul-02	400,000.00
55. Limbaga, Teodora V./or Limbaga, Daniel	Blk. 17 Lot 4 Moonstone St. Golden City Sub.Taytay Rizal	12-Jul-02	100,000.00
56. Panlaqui, Ma. Arsenia N.	106 Eucalyptus St., sta. Rosa Village, Bgy. Don Jose, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	15-Jul-02	102,000.00
57. De Jesus, Edna R.	Blk. 17 Lot 5 Moonstone St. Golden City Taytay	17-Jul-02	100,000.00
58. De Ramos, Gloria	51 Cottonwood St., Greenwood Exec. Village, Cainta, Rizal	17-Jul-02	100,000.00
59. De Ramos, Gloria	51 Cottonwood St., Greenwood Exec. Village, Cainta, Rizal	17-Jul-02	100,000.00
60 Lopez, Lemuel Z.	11 Fisheries St., Vasra Vill, Q.C.	17-Jul-02	204,000.00
61. Amancio, John Rainier	19 Ipil St. Casimiro Village, Las Piñas City	17-Jul-02	102,000.00
62. Delos Santos, Trinidad	10 Dennis St. Gabriel II Hulong Duhat Malabon City	17-Jul-02	750,000.00
63. Nicolas, Angela R.	74 Unang Hakbang Street, Brgy. Sto. Nino, Quezon City	18-Jul-02	100,000.00
64. Cabardo, Illuminada C.		19-Jul-02	100,000.00
65 Collante, Lilibeth S.	74 Unang Hakbang St. Brgy. Sto.Nino Quezon City	2-Aug-02	50,000.00
66. Casajo, Grace C.	L-20 B- 7 Covent Lane Diamond Village Novaliches, QC	5-Aug-02	500,000.00
67. Santos, Felipe M.	74 Unang Hakbang Street, Brgy. Sto. Nino, Quezon City	9-Aug-02	550,000.00
68. Nicolas, Angela R.	74 Unang Hakbang St. Sto.Nino Quezon City	9-Aug-02	100,000.00
69 Inocencio, Eloisa M.	106 Jade St., Camelia Homes Paranaque City	14-Aug-02	200,000.00
70. Lai, Editha L.	1912 G. Tuazon St., Sampaloc, City of Manila	15-Aug-02	200,000.00
71. Layson, Angelina S.	Rodfer Cmp. 13 Ritchie Cor.Leonardo St.Cainta Rizal	21-Aug-02	128,000.00
72 Wong, Leonie T.	240 Ortega St., San Juan, Metro Manila	30-Aug-02	50,000.00
73 Reyes, Ariel T /or Reyes, Julia D.	1D Int. Benita Esteban St.Malibay Pasay City	12-Sep-02	50,000.00
74 Dy, Lolita Y.	7-JR Lagman St., San Juan Metro Manila	8-Oct-02	30,000.00
75 Villena, Evelyn B.	275 San Jose St. Dampol 2nd-A Pulilan Bulacan	12-Oct-02	250,000.00
76. Manuel, Anicia N.	B-40 L-8 Phase III Casimiro Townhomes Dupanu St. Cnl.	17-Oct-02	100,000.00
77 Godofredo G. Timajo	Blk 44, Lot 19, Fatima II, Dasmarinas, Cavite	16-Nov-02	300,000.00
78. Gaviola, Alicia P.	49 Estanislao St., Lake Vie, Muntinlupa City	21-Nov-02	614,600.00
79 Denson, Teresita V.	B122 L5 & 7 Robinsons Homes, Brgy San Jose, Antipolo City	20-Dec-02	200,000.00
80 Kempski, Leila S.	13 Ritchie cor Leonard St.Rodfer Cmp, Cainta Rizal	3-Jan-03	108,000.00
81. Quito Ma. Linda U.	Blk. 19 Lot 37,Phase 2 EP Vill.Western Bicutan Taguig	Jan-03	339,000.00
82. Santos, Ma. Cristina N.	74 Unang Hakbang St. Brgy.Sto.Nino Quezon City	9-Jan-03	30,000.00
83. Samonte, Luciula O.	B-11 L-17 Carville Homes Tanza, Navotas Metro Manila	17-Jan-03	104,000.00
84. Orlanel, Arturo, S.	B3 Lot 11 Villa Susana Subd. Novaliches,Caloocan City	7-Feb-03	218,000.00
85. De Ocampo, Milo F.	B 4D L 3 Carville. Tanza Cavite	9-Feb-03	150,000.00
86 Paño, Nenita V.	2553 Lt. Garcia St., Baclaran, Parañaque City	30-Apr-03	55,000.00
87. Santos, Editha C.	1063 Lawa Obando, Bulacan	3-May-03	200,000.00
88 Lopez, Lemuel Z.	11 Fisheries St., Vasra Vill, Q.C.	17-Jul-03	204,000.00
89 Amancio, John Rainier	19 Ipil St. Casimiro Village, Las Piñas City	17-Jul-03	102,000.00
90. Dy Zenny, Tan	Lot 6 Blk. 11 Ezrah St. Goodwill Homes,Novaliches,	31-Jul-03	50,000.00
		total	27,436,054.00

11. Furthermore, by entering into numerous investment contract and promissory notes with the investing public, these acts of LEAD LENDING are likewise contrary to its purpose in violation of Section 45 of the Corporation Code, and constitute serious misrepresentations as what the corporation can do or is doing to the great prejudice of or damage to the general public, especially to the investing public. Under Section 6, paragraph (2) of Presidential Decree No. 902-A, as amended, the same constitute a ground for revocation.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, premises considered, it is respectfully prayed of this Honorable Office that after due notice a Revocation proceeding be instituted against LEAD LENDING CORPORATION and after due hearing judgment be rendered revoking and canceling its Certificate of Registration.

Petitioner likewise prays for such relief and remedies just and equitable under the premises.

23 October 2003.

Atty. ANNALYN S. RODRIGAZO

Noted :

Atty. MA. ELOISA R. GAN
OIC-CED and EPD

Atty. JOSE TOMAS C. SYQUIA
Director

(PDI - March 15, 2006)

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[1] Annex "A"- Lead Lending's Certificate of Registration with SEC

[2] ANNEX "B"- LEAD LENDING'S Articles of Incorporation

[3] Section 3.1 paragraphs (a) and (b)

[4] ANNEX "C"- Certification dated 15 October 2002 of Director Justina F. Callangan, CFD.

[5] ANNEX "D to D- 290 "- copies of said investment contracts- "Share a Fortune Agreements" and the Promissory Notes

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City Metro Manila
Philippines

IN THE MATTER OF:
GOLDBERG & PARTNERS, INC.

SEC Admin Case No. 05-05-82
(CED Case No. 01-2621)
Petition for Revocation of
Certification of Registration
for violation of Sec. 28 of the
Securities Regulation Code (SRC)
and Sec. 6 (l) of P.D. 902-A

x- -x

ORDER

It appearing that copy of the Order dated 04 May 2005 issued by the General Counsel to respondent **Goldberg & Partners, Inc.** and its Incorporators via registered mail was returned unserved for the reason that the respondent corporation and its Incorporators no longer hold office &/or reside at the last known business/residence address, the issuance of Summons by Publication is in order.

Wherefore, let a service of summons by way of publication of the Show Cause Order, this Order and the Petition for Revocation of Certificate of Registration that was filed against respondent corporation be issued to respondent **Goldberg & Partners, Inc.** and its incorporators namely: ***Ernesto Torres, Johnny De Manuel, Magdaleno Gutierrez, Jr., Ma. Victoria Martinez***, and ***Rowena Ambal*** pursuant to Rule 14, Section 14 of the Rules of Court, which is suppletorily applicable to SEC Circular No. 4, s. 2001.

Accordingly, all publication expenses shall be borned by petitioner.

SO ORDERED.

Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

20 January 2006.

VERNETTE G. UMALI-PACO
General Counsel

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City Metro Manila
Philippines

IN THE MATTER OF:
GOLDBERG & PARTNERS, INC.

SEC Admin Case No. 05-05-82
(CED Case No. 01-2621)
Petition for Revocation of
Certification of Registration
for violation of Sec. 28 of the
Securities Regulation Code (SRC)
and Sec. 6 (l) of P.D. 902-A

x- -x

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO:	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:
GOLDBERG & PARTNERS, INC.	28/F Tower II Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave., cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
ERNESTO D. TORRES	B-31, L-20, Ph. 3 North Matrixville I Camarin Road, Caloocan City
JOHNNY B. DE MANUEL	2019 Maria Clara Street Sampaloc, Manila
MAGDALENO C. GUTIERREZ	244 Lino Varon Street San Antonio, Cavite City
MA. VICTORIA B. MARTINEZ	Unit 22, Alma St., Buenavida Homes Merville Park Subd., Parañaque City
ROWENA B. AMBAL	1826 Dr. J. Gabriela, Baclaran, M. Mla.

Greetings:

WHEREAS, on 14 April 2005, a Petition for Revocation of Certificate of Registration, a copy of which is attached as Annex "A", was filed against respondent corporation by the Compliance and Enforcement Department, for the alleged violation of Sec. 28 of the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) and Sec. 6 (l) of P.D. 902-A wherein the respondent corporation committed acts of misrepresentation by engaging in the activity of buying and selling securities for and in behalf of its foreign clients without the required registration and/or license from this Commission to the great prejudice or damage of the general public;

WHEREAS, on 04 May 2005, the General Counsel issued an Order, a copy of which is attached as Annex "B", directing the above-named respondent corporation to file their Answer/Comment why the respondent corporation's certificate of registration should not be revoked for the reasons invoked by the petitioner;

WHEREAS, copy of the aforementioned Order that was furnished respondent corporation via registered mail was returned unserved for the reason that the respondent corporation no longer hold office at the last known business address as stated above;

WHEREAS, on 20 January 2006 the Office of the General Counsel issued an Order for the service of summons by publication, a copy of which is attached as Annex "C";

NOW, THEREFORE, you, respondents **Goldberg & Partners, Inc.** and its incorporators namely: ***Ernesto Torres, Johnny De Manuel, Magdaleno Gutierrez, Jr., Ma. Victoria Martinez***, and ***Rowena Ambal*** are hereby directed to file with the Office of the General Counsel, Securities and Exchange Commission, 9th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, within thirty (30) days from the date of the publication of this Summons, your Answer/Comment to the Petition and to send a copy thereof to the Petitioner. If you fail to do so within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief prayed for in the Petition.

Let this Summons and its Annexes be published once in a newspaper of general circulation at the expense of the petitioner.

Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

20 January 2006.

VERNETTE G. UMALI-PACO
General Counsel

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Compliance and Enforcement Department
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City Metro Manila

In the Matter of
GOLDBERG & PARTNERS, INC. CED Case No. 01-2621
x- -x

PETITION
(For Revocation of Corporate Franchise)

Petitioner, Compliance and Enforcement Department ("Petitioner CED", for brevity) of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC", for brevity) through the undersigned counsels and unto this Honorable Office of the General Counsel ("OGC", for brevity) most respectfully states that:

I
THE PARTIES

1. Petitioner CED is a department of the SEC. Mandated to file petitions for imposition of administrative penalties and institution of revocation proceedings of certificates of registration for violation of the Securities Regulation Code, the Corporation Code, Presidential Decree 902-A, as amended, including their Implementing Rules and Regulations and such other relevant laws enforced by the SEC. It is located at the 5th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, where it may be served with summons, notices and other processes of this Honorable Office.

2. Goldberg & Partners, Inc. ("Respondent Goldberg", for brevity), is a corporation duly registered with the SEC on 15 March 2001, bearing SEC Registration No. A200018861 with principal office address at 28th Floor Tower II Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, where it may be served with summons, notices and other processes of this Honorable Office.

A copy of the Certificate of Registration of Respondent Goldberg is hereto attached as Annex "A" and made an integral part hereof.

3. Per its Articles of Incorporation, the directors and officers of Respondent Goldberg, with their respective addresses and shareholdings, are as follows:

Name	Residence	No. of Shares
Ernesto D. Torres	Blk 31, Lot 20, Ph 3 North Matrixville I, Camarin Rd., Caloocan City	122,500
Johnny B. De Manuel	2019 Maria Clara St. Sampaloc, Manila	120,000
Magdaleno C. Gutierrez	244 Lino Varon St., San Antonio, Cavite City	2,500
Ma. Victoria B. Martinez	Unit 22 Alma St., Buenavida Homes, Merville Park Subd. Parañaque City	2,500
Rowena B. Ambal	1826 Dr. J. Gabriela Baclaran, Metro Manila	2,500

A copy of Respondent Goldberg's Articles of Incorporation is hereto attached as Annex "B" and made an integral part hereof.

4. Respondent Goldberg's authorized capital stock was One Million Pesos (Php1,000,000.00) divided into one million shares (1,000,000) at One Peso (Php1.00) per share. Of the One Million Pesos (Php1,000,000.00) worth of shares, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php250,000.00) were subscribed and Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php250,000.00) of which were duly paid as certified by its Treasurer, Mr. Johnny B. De Manuel.

II
THE ANTECEDENT FACTS

5. The investigation against Respondent Goldberg was prompted by the request of the Philippine National Police Criminal Division Investigation Group ("PNP-CIDG", for brevity) for the SEC's appropriate action on the alleged illegal trading in securities by Respondent Goldberg. The PNP-CIDG was then conducting surveillance on the operation by a certain foreign national George Martin and his company Respondent Goldberg. Petitioner CED also received a letter complaint from New Zealander Mr. Costa Nicolaou as to an alleged offer of security of a certain Paul Jensen from Respondent Goldberg.

Copies of the letter request to the SEC of PNP-CIDG and the letter complaint from Mr. Nicolaou are attached hereto as Annexes "C" and "D", respectively, and made integral parts hereof.

6. As reflected in its Articles of Incorporation duly filed with the SEC, Respondent Goldberg's primary purpose does not include buying or selling securities, to wit:

> "...to carry out management consultancy; identify and develop investment opportunities, provided the corporation shall not engage as securities and financial advisor or engage in the management of funds securities, portfolio of managed entities..."

7. The fact that Respondent Goldberg and specified individuals were not issued any secondary license to act as broker/dealer in securities is evidenced by the SEC Negative Certification dated June 7, 2001.

A copy of the SEC Negative Certification dated June 7, 2001 is hereto attached as Annex "E" and made an integral part hereof.

8. Based on the initial findings by the PNP-CIDG and Petitioner CED, Respondent Goldberg appears to be involved in boiler room operations where an unlicensed company, employing unregistered salesmen/brokers engages in high pressure sales of unregistered securities, and through manipulation of prices are able to sell securities to unsuspective clients. The Commission then issued a cease and desist order against Respondent Goldberg. A search warrant directed against the foreign nationals George Martin, Yaghoub Yazdi Yeganeh and Red Sternberg to search the office premises of Respondent Goldberg was also secured from the regular courts.

Copies of the cease and desist order and the search warrant are attached hereto as Annexes "F" and "G", respectively, and made integral parts hereof.

9. The search by the joint PNP-CIDG/SEC team of Respondent Goldberg's office premises pursuant to the search warrant yielded results that it is a consultancy firm engaged in the buying and selling of securities to foreign nationals without the necessary registration and license from the SEC, or boiler room operations, more specifically:

Boiler Room

9.1 Upon entry of the room referred to as the "boiler room", it was observed that fourteen (14) alleged salespersons (brokers) were at their booths lining two (2) sides of the L-shaped room. Some were conversing in front of the television set that was tuned to BLOOMBERG channel and showing the stock trades for the day around the world particularly in the US. Each booth is divided by a small partition wall and posted on the walls of each booth were telemarketing scripts pertaining to the buying and selling of stocks, uniform call guides, buy and sell slips, sales pitch scripts to answer any potential question of a client. There were also confirmation slips/invoice, one (1) black box marked "TOC and REQ" which meant "Take Off Computer and Requalify", one (1) black box marked "Call Backs", one (1) black box marked "KOL" which meant "Keep on List", and twelve (12) giant index card boxes with aliases using foreign sounding names. The telemarketeers using these fictitious names were among, if not all, the room occupants. The use of aliases is the modus operandi of boiler room companies to avoid detection.

Copies of the inventory of items seized from the boiler or broker's room are attached hereto as Annex "H" and made an integral part hereof.

Computer Room, Loading Room and Executive Office

9.2 In the computer room were six (6) persons working on their respective computers and who identified themselves as encoders. One of them identified himself as Robert Sternberg. They were encoding names of executives that are listed in the business directories of countries like Singapore, Malaysia and Australia. In one of the tables was a wide ledger of foreign clients showing the status of their stock trades. There were also piles of client cards and telephone statements of overseas calls explained to be printouts of what they were encoding. There were two (2) steel filing cabinets containing more client files and buy/sell slips with scribbling of stock trades. In the loading room were two (2) male foreigners and one (1) female Filipino sitting with pens, papers and calculators. They were working on client cards and client files. When the team pressed the "Redial" buttons of the telephones, they found out that two (2) phones had overseas calls to Australia. Upon verifying with the person on the other end of the line, they found out that the calls were about buying shares of stock and that the person on the other end corresponded to the client card then laying on the table. In the executive room were foreigners Messrs. George Martin and Yaghoub Yazdi Yeganeh, three (3) boxes of mail containing Respondent Goldberg's corporate new updates to be sent abroad, one (1) box of business directories, and list of foreigners with their telephone numbers and office/position in their respective companies.

Copies of the inventory items seized from the computer room and executive room are attached hereto as Annexes "I" and "J", respectively, and made integral parts hereof.

10. The search also disclosed that another firm called Maytrad Trading Marketing was operating in the office premises of Respondent Goldberg and was allegedly being used by it for its buying and selling activities. However, Maytrad Trading Marketing, is not registered with the SEC as evidenced by the SEC Negative Certification dated July 9, 2001 but is licensed to operate with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Makati Mayor's office.

A copy of the SEC Negative Certification dated July 9, 2001 is attached hereto as Annex "K" and made an integral part hereof.

11. A number of other letter complaints were filed with the SEC by Australians Mr. Sani William Lee, Mr. Lee McIver and Mervyn Hastings who claimed that they have been defrauded of their investments in foreign currency (US$) in connection with Respondent Goldberg's investments solicitation and foreign securities/dealings/brokering services.

Copies of the letter complaints of these Australians are attached hereto as Annexes "L" to "N" and made integral parts hereof.

12. In addition, Mr. Sani William Lee, Ms. Carolyn Hammer and Mr. Lee McIver filed their respective complaint-affidavits with the SEC. In part the complaint-affidavits show:

Sani William Lee

12.1 Mr. Lee was first contacted by Respondent Goldberg in May 2001 when he received a phone call from a person who in that discussion identified himself as Mr. Paul Jensen, a representative of Respondent Goldberg.

12.2 According to Mr. Lee, Mr. Jensen used the words to the effect of "the company is a stockbroking firm located in the Philippines and USA and make a recommendation for trade in NASDAQ and Dow Jones on the US Stock Exchange" during their conversation.

12.3 Mr. Lee also stated that since his first contact with Mr. Jensen, the latter called his cell phone constantly to entice him to purchase a stock called "Accesspoint Corp" which trades on the US Stock Exchange.

12.4 Mr. Lee said that he was finally convinced on or about 31 May 2001 to purchase a small parcel of this stock, more particularly 5000 Accesspoint Corp shares at a price of US$1.45 each, totalling US$7,250 plus commissions, after many phone calls.

12.5 Per Mr. Lee, he received after several days later a Federal Express envelope containing the following:
(a) Contract Noe for the purchase of the stock;
(b) Certificate of Foreign Status (Form W-8);
(c) Goldberg Trading Account Application Form;
(d) Settlement instruction; and
(e) Welcoming Aboard letter signed by K.H. Goldberg, Chairman.

12.6 According to Mr. Lee, he transferred the funds on or about 7 June 2001 in accordance with the settlement instructions. Several days later, he received a letter via Federal Express to confirm that they have received the funds and issued a receipt for the said payment.

12.6 Mr. Lee said that Respondent Goldberg continued to send him their newsletters introducing him to other investment products and invited him to visit their website "www.goldbergandpartners.com." However, Mr. Lee did not have the time to investigate any further.

12.7 In early July 2001, Mr. Lee said that he was contacted on his cell phone by a man who introduced himself as Mr. Alex Silverman who claimed to be a senior stockbroker of Respondent Goldberg. In the course of their telephone conservation, Mr. Silverman discussed with him the opportunity to purchase a stock called "Hartcourt Co." which trades in the US Stock Exchange. Again, Mr. Lee was convinced to purchase a parcel of this stock on or about 10 July 2001.

12.8 Mr. Lee committed to purchase 50,000 Hartcourt shares at a price of US$0.38 each totalling US$19,000 plus commissions. Several days later, Mr. Lee received confirmation of this transaction via Federal Express. He then made payment according to instructions on or about 16, July 2001. Several days later, he received a letter via Federal Express to confirm that they have received the funds and issued a receipt of the said payment.

12.9 According to Mr. Lee, Mr. Silverman continues to call his cell phone to talk to him about the stock and that he had asked him much information about the stocks which he was able to reply convincingly.

12.10 Per Mr. Lee, he only became suspicious and concerned about Respondent Goldberg when he saw in the evening news on or about 27 July 2001 a story about the arrest of companies in Thailand who had been alleged of deceiving potential investors into buying non-existent stocks. He then sent a facsimile to Atty. Emma Valencia of the SEC on or about 28 July 2001 requesting information about Respondent Goldberg.

12.11 Mr. Lee said that he called Mr. Silverman at the first opportunity on 30 July 2001 requesting for Respondent Goldberg's security dealer number in the Philippines and Australia but Mr. Silverman only able to give him the number for the Philippines as A200018861. When Mr. Silverman crosschecked this with the SEC on 31 July 2001, Atty. Valencia replied to him via e-mail that Respondent Goldberg had no security dealer number and that the PNP-CIDG had made an arrest.

12.12 Mr. Lee alleges in his affidavit his summary of claim for fraud by Respondent Goldberg, as follows:

Date	Amount
7 June 2001	US$7,365
16 July 2001	US$19,350
Total	**US$26,715**

Carolyn Hammer and Lee McIver (Joint Affidavit)

12.13 According to Ms. Carolyn Hammer and Mr. Lee McIver, they purchased on 22 June 2001, 5000 shares ($11,037.24 AUD) in Accesspoint Corporation, a company based in the United States, through Respondent Goldberg.

12.14 Per Ms. Hammer AND Mr. Lee, the money was transferred on 5 July 2001 to account details supplied by Respondent Goldberg.

12.15 Having been alerted to possible frauds in this area, they requested proof of ownership of the shares and legitimacy of Respondent Goldberg.

12.16 According to them, they received no correspondence, no refund and can no longer reach Respondent Goldberg by phone, fax or e-mail.

12.17 Because they have now been informed that Respondent Goldberg has been raided by the SEC and is now being investigated with a view to prosecution, they submit their complaint as victims of fraud and register themselves as creditors on this matter.

Copies of the complaint-affidavits of Mr. Lee, Ms. Hammer and Mr. Lee are hereto attached as Annexes "O" and "P" and made integral parts thereof.

III
THE VIOLATION

13. Section 28 of the Securities Regulation Code provides, to wit:

> "**Sec. 28.** *Registration of Brokers, Dealers, Salesmen and Associated Persons.* – 28.1. No person shall engage in the business of buying or selling securities in the Philippines as a broker or dealer or act as a salesman, or an associated person or any broker or dealer unless registered as such with the Commission."

14. Under Section 28 herein above, Respondent Goldberg cannot therefore engage in the activity of buying and selling securities for and in behalf of its foreign clients without the required registration/license from the SEC.

15. Respondent Goldberg's acts as earlier discussed amount to serious misrepresentation as it misrepresented itself as being legally engaged in the purchase and sale of securities in behalf of its clients when in truth and in fact it was never permitted nor issued a license by the SEC to engage in such activity. Respondent Goldberg even induced its clients into investing their money only to find out later that Respondent Goldberg was not authorized nor did it have the license to engage in such activity;

16. For committing acts of misrepresentation, the Certificate of Registration of Respondent Goldberg must be revoked pursuant to Section 6. (l) of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 902-A, which explicitly states:

> "**Section 6.** In order to effectively exercise such jurisdiction, the Commission shall possess the following powers:
>
> xxx
> (l) To suspend, or revoke, after proper notice and hearing, the franchise or certificate of registration of corporations, partnerships or associations, upon any of the grounds provided by law, including the following:
> xxx
>
> 2. Serious misrepresentation as to what the corporation can do or is doing to the great prejudice of or damage to the general public;
> xxx"

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, premises considered, it is most respectfully prayed of this Honorable Commission that the Certificate of Registration of Respondent Goldberg be revoked for serious misrepresentation as to what it can do or is doing to the great prejudice of or damage to the general public.

Petitioner likewise prays for such other relief and remedies as are just and equitable under the premises.

Mandaluyong City, Philippines, 14 April 2005.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Compliance and Enforcement Department
5th Floor SEC Building
EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

ATTY. HUBERT B. GUEVARA
Director
IBP Lifetime/O.R. No. 02680
Roll of Attorney No. 40754

ATTY. LISA BETH G. RICO
Assistant Director
Evaluation and Prosecution Division
IBP O.R. No. 642722, 3/22/05, Iloilo City
Roll of Attorney No. 36260

ATTY. MICAELA T. VILLAREAL
Securities Counsel III
Evaluation and Prosecution Division
IBP O.R. No. 648495, 04/14/2005, Quezon City
Roll of Attorney No. 40753

(PDI-- March 15, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City Metro Manila
Philippines

IN THE MATTER OF:
ICS EXPORTS, INC.

SEC Admin. Case No. 10-03-73
(CED Case No. 02-2726)
For: Revocation of Certificate of Registration

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT
DEPARTMENT (CED),
Petitioner.
x - x

ORDER

It appearing that copy of the Show Cause Order dated 21 October 2003 issued by the Office of the General Counsel to respondent **ICS Exports, Inc.** by way of personal delivery and registered mail, was returned unserved for the reason that the respondent corporation no longer holds office at the last known business address, the issuance of Summons by Publication is in order.

Wherefore, let a service of summons by way of publication of the Show Cause Order, this Order and the Petition for Revocation of Certificate of Registration that was filed against respondent corporation be issued to respondent ICS Exports, Inc. and its incorporators namely: ***Emilia C. Sison, Ireneo C. Sison, William C. Sison, Mimosa H. Zamudio, and Mirasol H. Aguilar*** pursuant to Rule 14, Section 14 of the Rules of Court, which is suppletorily applicable to SEC Circular No. 4, s. 2001.

Accordingly, all publication expenses shall be borne by petitioner.

SO ORDERED,

Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
14 July 2005.

VERNETTE G. UMALI-PACO
General Counsel

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City Metro Manila
Philippines

IN THE MATTER OF:
ICS EXPORTS, INC.

SEC Admin. Case No. 10-03-73
(CED Case No. 02-2726)
For: Revocation of Certificate of Registration

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT
DEPARTMENT (CED),
Petitioner.
x - x

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO:	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
ICS EXPORTS, INC.	2nd Floor, Valdez Rufon Condo Bldg. II 469 Boni Serrano Rd. cor. 15th Ave. Cubao, Quezon City
EMILIA C. SISON	NO. 44 Atilla Street, Kingsville Antipolo City
IRENEO C. SISON, JR.	No. 48 Anda Street, Lopez, Quezon
WILLIAM C. SISON	No. 44 Diamond St., Homepoint Subd. Marikina City
MIMOSA H. ZAMUDIO	No. 23 Tandang Sora Street Parang, Marikina City
MIRASOL H. AGUILAR	No. 16 Tandang Sora Street Parang, Marikina City

Greetings:

WHEREAS, on 14 October 2003, a verified Petition for Revocation of Certificate of Registration, a copy of which is attached as Annex "A", was filed against respondent corporation by the Compliance and Enforcement Department, for the alleged violation of Sec. 8.1 of the Securities Regulation Code wherein the respondent corporation sold, offered, and distributed loan contracts or promissory notes as form of securities to more than twenty (20) investors within a twelve (12) month period making the mode of offering public in character; and that such securities offered and distributed were not covered by a registration statement duly filed and approved by the Commission, causing grave and irreparable injury to the investing public;

WHEREAS, on 21 October 2003, General Counsel Vernette G. Umali-Paco issued a Show Cause Order, a copy of which is attached as Annex "B", requiring the above-named respondent corporation to show cause why the respondent corporation's certificate of registration should not be revoked for the reasons invoked by the petitioner;

WHEREAS, copy of the aforementioned Show Cause Order that was furnished respondent corporation both by personal delivery and registered mail was returned unserved for the reason that the respondent corporation no longer holds office at the last known business address as stated above;

WHEREAS, on 14 July 2005, the Office of the General Counsel issued an order for the service of summons by publication, a copy of which is attached as Annex "C";

NOW THEREFORE, you, respondents **ICS Exports Inc.** and its incorporators namely: ***Emilia C. Sison, Ireneo C. Sison, William C. Sison, Mimosa H. Zamudio, and Mirasol H. Aguilar*** are hereby directed to file with the Office of the General Counsel, Securities and Exchange Commission, 9th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, within thirty (30) days from the date of the publication of this Summons, your answer to the Petition and to send a copy thereof to the Petitioner. If you fail to do so within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief prayed for in the Petition.

Let this Summons and its Annexes be published once in a newspaper of general circulation at the expense of the petitioner.

Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.
14 July 2005.

VERNETTE G. UMALI-PACO
General Counsel

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

IN THE MATTER OF:
ICS EXPORTS, INC.

CED Case No. 02-2726
For: Violations of Sec. 8.1 of the Securities Regulation Code and Sec. 45 of the Corporation Code

x - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

PETITION
FOR
REVOCATION OF CORPORATE REGISTRATION

COMES NOW petitioner Compliance and Enforcement Department ("CED") of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), through the undersigned counsels, and unto this Honorable Commission, most respectfully states that:

Prefatory Statement

ICS EXPORTS, INC. offered, sold and distributed to the public securities which were not covered by a registration statement duly filed with and approved by the Commission, in violation of its corporate franchise, causing grave and irreparable injury to the investing public.

The Parties

1. Petitioner is the Compliance and Enforcement Department (CED) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), located at the 5th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, where it may be served with notices, orders and other processes of this Honorable Office;

2. Respondent ICS EXPORTS, INC., herein referred to as ICS for brevity, is a domestic stock corporation duly organized and registered under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines on 27 July 2000 with S.E.C. Registration No. A200011592 and with business address at 2nd Flr., Valdez-Rufon Condo, Bldg. 11, 469 Boni Serrano Rd. corner 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City;

Photocopies of the Certificate of Corporate Registration and the Articles of Incorporation of herein respondent company are hereto attached and marked as **Annexes "A" and "B"**, respectively, and made integrals parts hereof;

3. The respondent directors of the respondent company, as reflected in Article Fifth in its Articles of Incorporation, are all Filipino citizens of legal ages and with their respective detention cell address as follows:

	Name	Address
1.	Emilia C. Sison	Camp Karingal, Sikatuna Village, Diliman, Quezon City
2.	Ireneo C. Sison	Quezon City Jail, Quezon City
3.	William C. Sison	Quezon City Jail, Quezon City
4.	Mimosa H. Zamudio	Camp Karingal, Sikatuna Village, Diliman, Quezon City
5.	Mirasol M. Aguilar	Camp Karingal, Sikatuna Village, Diliman, Quezon City

They may respectively be served with summons and other processes of this Honorable Office at their above-stated detention cell addresses where they are at present imprisoned for Syndicated *Estafa*;

4. As stated in its Articles of Incorporation the primary purpose of the respondent company was to engage in the business of trading and exporting goods such as garden décor, agricultural products, leather fashion accessories, and food supplements on wholesale and retail basis;

5. Verification with the Corporate and Finance Department (CFD) of this Commission revealed the following information:

5.1 ICS has never filed any General Information Sheet (GIS) with the Commission;

5.2 The Financial Statement (FS) for the year 2001 filed on April 25, 2002 is the latest Financial Statement filed by ICS; and

5.3 The respondent company is not a registered issuer of securities;

Attached and marked as **Annexes "C to E"** and made integral parts hereof, are the respective Certifications dated 8, 9 and 10 September 2003, by the Director of each concerned Department;

6. The latest Financial Statement (FS), hereto attached and marked as **Annex "F"** and made integral part hereof filed by respondent company on 25 April 2002 shows that for the year 2001 it had a total assets of only P3,295,143.88 and total liabilities of P168,539,70;

Statement of Facts

7. On 11 July 2002, Mr. Francisco R. Morrondoz and Mr. Eglicerio C. Navarro visited the CED to report a company named ICS EXPORTS, INC., which was allegedly indebted to a number of individuals. This was made possible by offering these creditors high interest rates of return ranging from 2.5% to 15% per month. The company had allegedly represented to them that it had several income-generating activities and, therefore, it could afford to pay the interest and the principal stated in the contract of loan issued to each creditor. However in April 2002, ICS started being remiss in meeting its obligations to its creditors. The checks issued by ICS to its creditors bounced due to insufficiency of funds resulting in the closure of its accounts with China Banking Corporation, Araneta Branch and Centennial Bank, Murphy Branch. Mr. Morrondoz and Mr. Navarro submitted documents to prove the alleged pseudo-investing taking activities of ICS. Among these documents received by the CED were copies of Contracts of Loans/Promissory Notes, hereto attached and marked as **Annexes "G to G-24"** and made integral parts hereof, entered by ICS into with some of its creditors / investors; copies of the complaint-affidavits of the said investors; and acknowledgement receipts by ICS of the amount placed by the investors. Hereunder is a summary of the said loan contracts/promissory notes;

No.	Date	Name	Amount	Contract No.
1	16-Nov-01	Estella M. Monterubio	180,000.00	3232
2	7-Dec-01	Shirley M. Alfajora	60,000.00	3522
3	8-Dec-01	Jose Q. Andalio	100,000.00	3531
4	3-Jan-02	Eduardo D. Caborda	100,000.00	3815
5	7-Jan-02	Allan A. Uy	50,000.00	3906
6	7-Jan-02	Casimero M. Cherevias	50,000.00	3879
7	9-Jan-02	Virginia C. Santos	250,000.00	3959
8	9-Jan-02	Francisco R. Morrondoz	300,000.00	3970
9	22-Jan-02	Crescencio R. Dadison	100,000.00	4208
10	29-Jan-02	Richard A. Tapec	100,000.00	4342
11	31-Jan-02	Nida R. Republo	100,000.00	4385
12	5-Feb-02	Bernard B. Samin	150,000.00	4477
13	8-Feb-02	Ma. Clarissa P. Acacio	50,000.00	4544
14	11-Feb-02	Gervacio O. Balmaceda	150,000.00	4568
15	16-Feb-02	Ariel Bucks	148,000.00	4672
16	1-Mar-02	Felicidad A. Aquino	50,000.00	4874
17	5-Mar-02	Robert V. Bulong	100,000.00	4921
18	8-Mar-02	Baltazar Caguioa	100,000.00	4967
19	13-Mar-02	Marjorie E. Azcune	100,000.00	5052
20	18-Apr-02	Eglicerio C. Navarro	150,000.00	5468
21	29-Apr-02	Meriam Dionisio	50,000.00	5577
22	10-May-02	Antonio Mendoza	100,000.00	5683
23	14-May-02	Teresita Bardon	400,000.00	5716
24	31-May-02	Maria R. Ilagan	100,000.00	5980
25	21-Dec-02	Manuel Y. Daradal	100,000.00	3716
		Total	P 3,138,000.00	

8. To verify the said information and complaints, as well as to determine the company's compliance with existing laws, rules and regulations implemented by SEC, Mr. Romulo Arugay, Securities Investigator of the CED, visited the respondent company's office. However, when he reached the said office, it was closed. Mrs. Zenaida V. Rufon, the owner and administrator of the building told Mr. Arugay that ICS vacated and no longer operates within the said building. Hereto attached and marked as **Annex "H"** and made integral to this petition is a copy of Mr. Arugay's affidavit on the said visit;

9. On August 21, 2002, the ECD received from Atty. Edgardo O. Era copies of complaints for Estafa filed by several investors against Emilia Sison, President and General Manager of ICS Export. Attached to the complaints are copies of the contracts of loans they entered into with ICS. These contracts are hereto attached and marked as **Annexes "I to I-25"** and made integral parts hereof, the particulars of which are summarized hereunder:

No.	Date	Name	Amount	Contract No.
1	21-Jan	Lea Samson	200,000.00	4185
2	3-Jan	Gloria Raymundo	1,000,000.00	3795
3	3-Jan-02	Reynato Raymundo	150,000.00	3797
4	8-Jan-02	Arturo Marcos	150,000.00	3935
5	9-Jan-02	Arturo B. Marcos	50,000.00	3953
6	16-Jan-02	Ferdinand Samson	325,000.00	4122
7	4-Feb-02	Lea Samson	550,000.00	4427
8	8-Feb-02	Rhenelyn S. Cruz	50,000.00	4525
9	8-Feb-02	Arturo B. Marcos	450,000.00	4534
10	8-Feb-02	Arturo B. Marcos	50,000.00	4535
11	1-Mar-02	Nestor G. Tienzo	500,000.00	4868
12	8-Mar-02	Arturo B. Marcos	110,000.00	4964
13	11-Mar-02	Gloria Raymundo	300,000.00	4981
14	16-Mar-02	Lea Samson	300,000.00	5089
15	18-Mar-02	Josephine D. Castro	110,000.00	5118
16	11-Apr-02	Ferdinand Samson	525,000.00	5375
17	12-Apr-02	Guillermo L. Geraldo, Jr.	200,000.00	5381
18	12-Apr-02	Sarah Jane Panaloza	50,000.00	5,383.00
19	12-Apr-02	Arturo Marcos	170,000.00	5379
20	17-Apr-02	Ferdinand Samson	90,000.00	5455
21	18-Apr-02	Gloria Raymundo	100,000.00	5460
22	16-May-02	Ferdinand Samson	80,000.00	5749
23	25-May-02	Ferdinand Samson	325,000.00	5888
24	25-May-02	Ferdinand Samson	391,000.00	5877
25	28-May-02	Generoso L. Medina	100,000.00	5923
26	18-Dec-02	Ferdinand Samson	391,000.00	3669
		Total	P 6,717,000.00	

10. On 11 December 2002, the CED was in receipt of a Resolution dated 26 November 2002, herewith attached as **Annex "J"**, by the Prosecution Office of the Department of Justice approving the filing of criminal cases for violations of Section 8.1 or R.A. 8799 (Securities Regulation Code) and Article 315 of the Revised Penal Code in relation to P.D. No. 1689 against all members of the Board of Directors and some of the officers of ICS.

Laws Violated

11. Section 8.1 of Securities Regulation Code states that "(s)ecurities shall not be sold of offered for sale or distribution within the Philippines, without a registration requirement duly filed with and approved by the Commission. Prior to such sale, information on the securities, in such form and with such substance as the Commission may prescribe, shall be made available to each prospective purchaser;"

Section 3 of the said Code defines securities as "shares, participation or interest in a corporation or in a commercial enterprise or profit-making venture and evidenced by a certificate, contract, instrument, whether written or electronic in character." Included in paragraph (a) and (b) of the same are evidence of indebtedness and investments contracts. The numerous contracts of loans entered into by respondent corporation with its victims could either be considered as investment contracts or evidences of indebtedness and hence, securities;

12. A cursory perusal of these contracts of loan would reveal that they are in the form of promissory notes, hence, evidence of indebtedness, as indicated by the words, "For Value Received, ICS Exports, Inc. (Borrower) ... hereby *promises to pay* to the order of __________ (Lender) xxx In case of default, demandable and with effect to the provision of this contract as agreed upon by the Borrower and Lender ...." The loan contracts or promissory notes entered into by ICS with more than twenty (20) investors within a twelve month period were done indiscriminately; therefore, its mode of offering was public in character and should have been registered as required by the aforequoted Section 8.1 of the SRC.

13. But in depth perusal of the same would likewise reveal that the elements of an investment contract are present. Under SRC Rule 3.1-1- an investment contract means a contract, transaction or scheme (collectively "contract") whereby a person invests his money in a common enterprise and is led to expect profits primarily from the efforts of others. In the instant case there were contracts executed with the public. The said contracts involved an *investment of money*. These was a *common enterprise* because there was a pooling of investors resources to ICS which represented that it would use the money and return the same with high interest. The *intent of the parties to derive profit* from entering into the contract of loans with ICS is clear from the rate of return of as high as 15% per month. The only effort to be exerted by the investors to realize this kind of profit after placing their investments is to encash the post dated checks issued by ICS on their scheduled due dates; hence, *the profits are to come primarily from the efforts of other.*

14. Whether the contracts be classified as loan contracts or investment contracts, ICS offered and distributed securities without the requisite license to do so, in patent contravention of the Securities Regulation Code. These acts are likewise contrary to its purpose in violation of Section 45 of the Corporation Code.

15. In pursuing the business activities actually conducted, as clearly established by evidences, ICS was serious misrepresentations as what the corporation could to or was doing the great prejudice of or damage to the general public, especially to the investing public. Section 6, paragraph (2) of Presidential Decree No. 902-A, as amended, expressly lists the same as a ground for revocation;

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, premises considered, it is most respectfully prayed for of this Honorable Office that, after due notice, revocation proceeding be instituted against **ICS EXPORTS, INC.** and after due hearing judgement be rendered revoking and canceling its certificate of registration including therein an order for the respondent corporation to return the money it inlawfully solicited from all its investors / creditors.

Petitioner likewise prays for such other relief and remedies just and equitable under the premises.

14 October 2003, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

For the Compliance and Enforcement
Department of the Commission

Atty. ANNALYN S. RODRIGAZO

Noted by:

Atty. MA. ELOISA R. GAN
OIC, CID and EPD, CED

Atty. JOSE TOMAS C. SYQUIA
Director, CED

(PDI - March 15, 2006)

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OBITUARIES

Death Notice

VISITACION ECUBE
of Igbaras, Iloilo
joined her Creator last March 13, 2006.
Her body lies in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Ave., Q.C.
Her body will be cremated today, March 15, 2006.

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ANGELINA SOYANGCO TRANATE

OF CATANING, BALANGA CITY, BATAAN

...passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 12, 2006 at the age of 81.

Her bereaved family: husband **Jose "Pepe" Guño Tranate**; children **Diadema & Enrico De Jesus, Joselito & Clarissa, Leonardo & Ma. Lourdes, Arnel & Yolanda, Antonio & Doris**; grandchildren and other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS-Capilla Del Betania, J.P. Rizal St., Talisay, Balanga City, Bataan.

Interment will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, 2006 at the Eternal Shrine Memorial Park.

VICENTE LOPEZ CHUA

April 4, 1935 - March 13, 2006

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 70.

His loving wife **MABEL**; children **KRISTINA DEBBIE** and **JEFFREY**; brothers and sisters, in-laws, nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 18, 2006 at the Manila Memorial Park , Sucat, Parañaque City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish in Forbes Park, Makati City.

International Container Terminal Services, Inc.
deeply regrets the passing away
of its Director

Ramon Alegre Igual

on 14 March 2006.

His remains lie in state at
the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
Broadway Ave., Quezon City.

Masses will be offered every 7:00 p.m.
from Tuesday, 14 March 2006
to Thursday, 16 March 2006.

Interment will be on Friday, 17 March 2006
at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque
after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at
the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church.

We request the pious readers to pray
for the eternal repose of his soul.

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KATRINA DIAZ VILLAROMAN

who joined her Creator on March 16, 2004
*We, the parents **Ernie & Lhay**; children **Erlynne, Camille & Erwin** request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.*

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches on March 16, 2006:

St. John Evangelist Parish, *Tapulao, Orani, Bataan*	6 am
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, *La Loma, Q.C*	6:30 am
San Antonio de Padua, *West Riverside, SFDM, Q.C.*	6 am & 6 pm
Sto. Domingo Church, *Q.C.*	12:15 p.m.

Jesus I Trust in You
Our Dearly Beloved

FISCAL MARCIANO SALAZAR BASCOS

(6 March 1930 – 12 March 2006)

Peacefully joined our Creator and Heavenly Father at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Maria Amor**; children **Terry** and **Ed**, **Neneng**, **Alex**, **Bernie** (†) and **Melinda**, and **Cideo** and **Baby**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel I, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Cremation will be on 18 March 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

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>
> **John 14:6**

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Business

DTI urges SMEs to go global

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY yesterday urged small and medium enterprises to work with the government on the development of their products to hasten their entry in the global market.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila also called on food exporters to explore the Japanese market whose government has committed to help suppliers from developing countries.

Favila said exporters could get help on the design, prototyping and series production of their products from the Product Design and Development Center of the Philippines.

He said SMEs have so far adopted 1,278 designs for gifts and holiday décor, furniture and packaging with the help of 17 designers from the PDDCP.

Favila added that these SMEs were now testing the marketability of the products through the National Trade Fair to be held until March 19 at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Earlier, the trade chief urged SME operators to deepen their know-how on and strengthen their supply chains to help price their products competitively in the local and foreign markets.

"In a competitive environment, SMEs must learn to innovate and know where to source the best raw materials for their products," he said.

"Studying the supply chain ensures that the best supplier of raw materials are contracted to provide the best components at reasonable and competitive prices for their finish products," Favila said.

He added that the DTI has developed a database on the sources of raw materials in the country in an effort to help firms cut costs.

An offshoot of this project is a trade show that would exhibit the various production processes that can be applied on three raw materials with great potential—bamboo, coconut and Manila palm.

Also yesterday, Favila said the Japanese food market was willing to pay extra for food products.

One venue for such efforts is Japan's biggest food fair, Foodex Japan, being held until March 17.

According to the Japan External Trade Organization, it was organizing a special section in the 2006 Foodex to give developing countries the opportunity to penetrate Asia's largest market.

Jetro said its Manila unit had partnered with the Center for International Trade Exhibitions and Missions to bring in suppliers of health and organic products in the line-up of Philippine food and beverage exhibitions.

The agency explained that the concept of the Jetro Zone was based on helping stimulate the food industry of developing countries by introducing promising goods to and developing leads for entering the Japanese market.

PDIC, BIR seek deal

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) has offered about P2 billion to the Bureau of Internal Revenue to settle their tax dispute involving P10-billion in alleged unpaid taxes.

But Nelson Aspe, BIR director for Makati, said the revenue agency was inclined to agree to a settlement of at least P4 billion.

He said the tax liabilities of PDIC, a state-owned firm tasked with securing bank deposits, were composed largely of value-added taxes and income taxes that had not been remitted from 1999 to 2004.

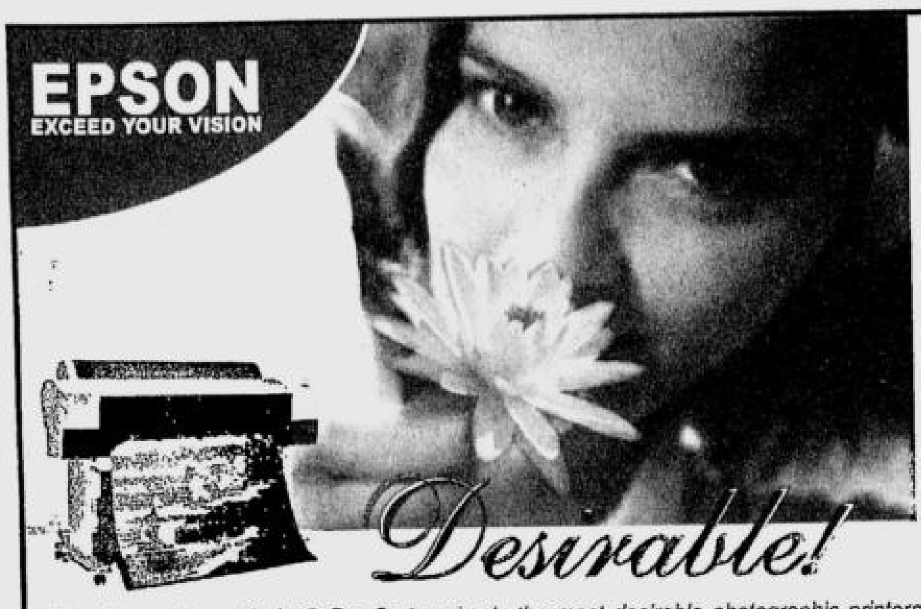
PDIC, on the other hand, had said it did not remit taxes in the belief that it was exempt from VAT and income tax, given its government functions.

The insurer added that since it was a spin-off agency of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which is tax-exempt, it should also be free from tax obligations.

But Aspe said that as far as BIR was concerned, PDIC should pay taxes just like other government-owned and -controlled corporations.

He added that the service of providing insurance to bank deposits was a profit-generating activity, thus, should be subject to VAT.

The tax case is now under review by the Department of Justice.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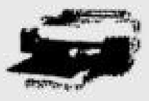
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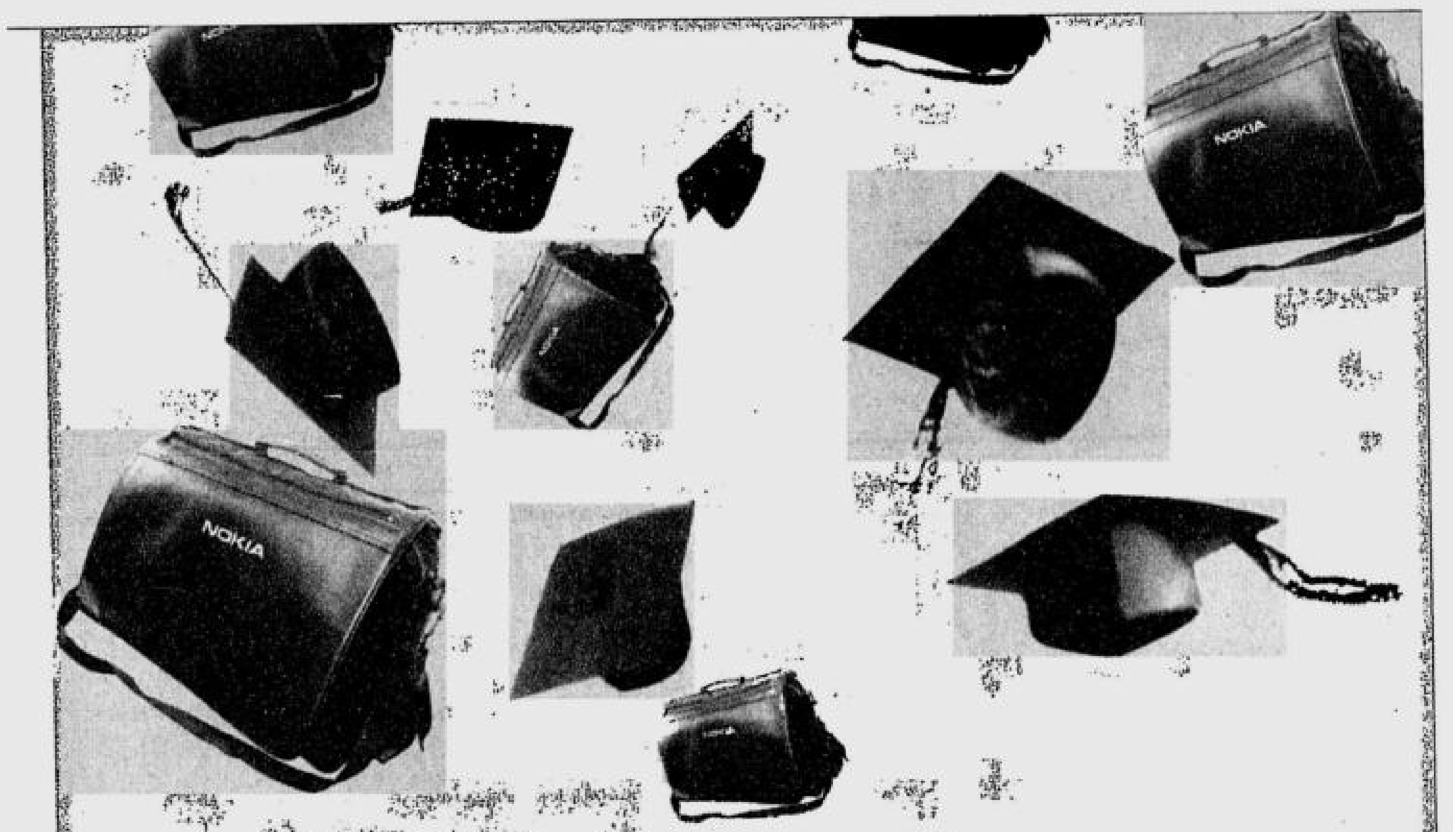
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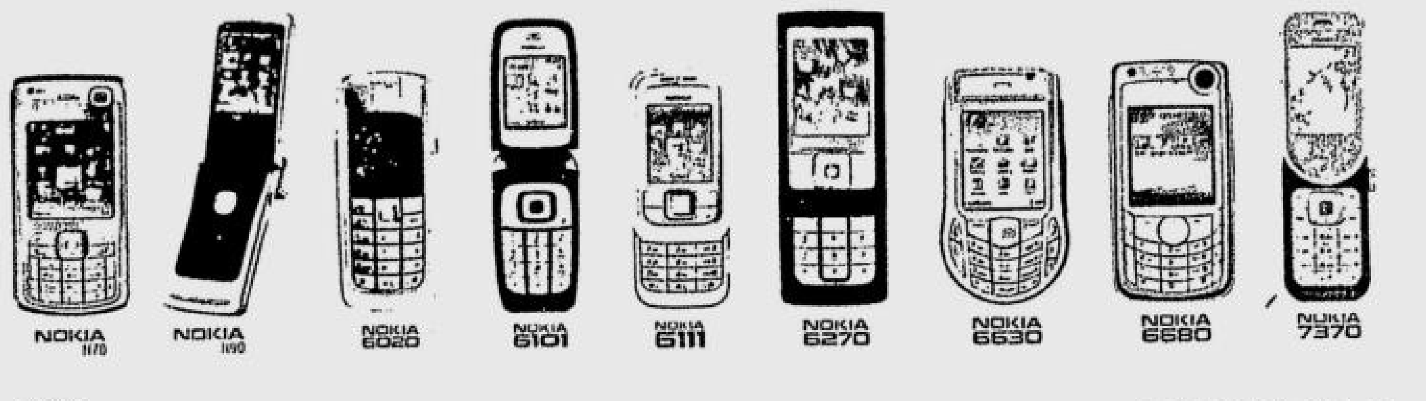

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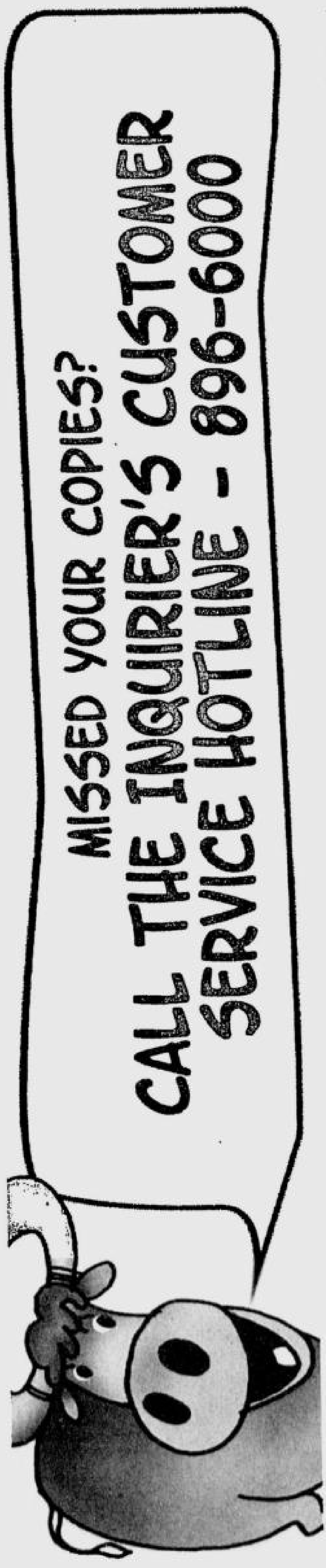
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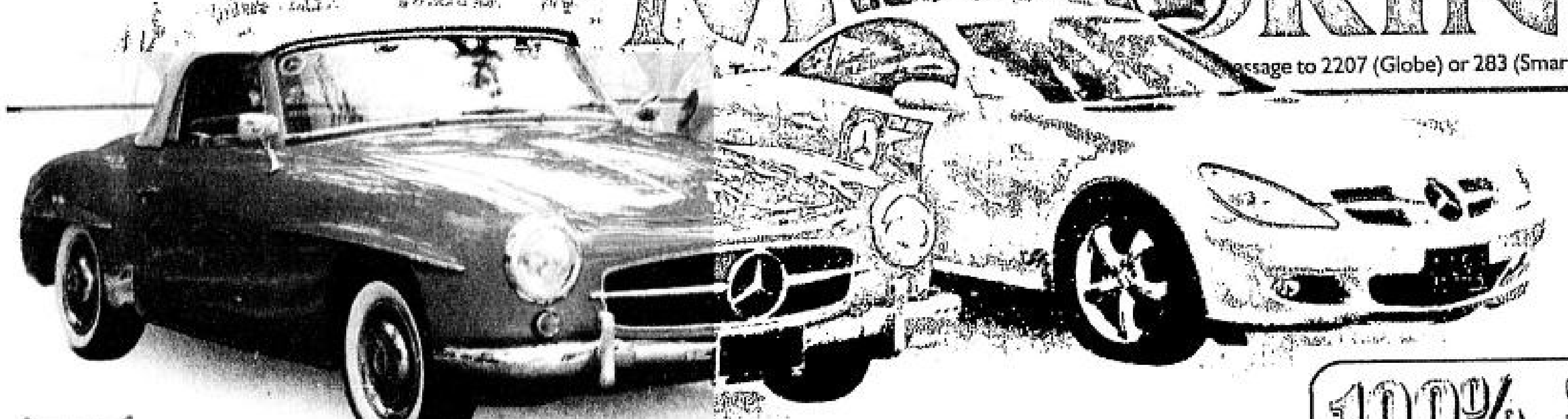

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Toys for the rich boys with heart

By Tessa R. Salazar

IT'S A HOBBY OF THE wealthy—that's how one would dismiss collectors of classic Mercedes-Benzes.

But there's something more beneath its just being "a hobby," if you ask Boonyarid Chullasapya, a Thai real estate businessman and unabashed "worshipper" of the 120-year heritage of the Mercedes-Benz, the "royal family" of automobiles.

Boonyarid, who heads Mercedes-Benz Club Thailand, describes the plethora of Benzes running on the streets of Thailand, and beams at his observation that Mercedes-Benz has been the only automobile brand in Thailand with more than a hundred years of history behind it.

He insists that the club doesn't exist just to flaunt its members' personal wealth. He explains that the Benzes he drives, for example, serve to "honor" the memory of his parents, who he says adored the classic MB cars.

Promoting Thai tourism

The club, he says, also promotes Thai tourism via its ride-and-drive programs for fellow MB enthusiast-visitors. And just last year, the club was able to raise over 2 million Baht for tsunami victims via auctions of classic cars, among other fund-raising activities.

"We're proud that we're into our hobbies and making it useful to society, for charity, to promote tourism in Thailand," he says.

Boonyarid was born in 1955, the same year his parents acquired a Mercedes "Red Angel" 190 SL. His father, who was a four-star general of the Thai Armed Forces and a former defense minister of Thailand, used it as the family's weekend car. And because it was limited to weekend runs ("and Dad never had much time to drive anyway"), the car accumulated a mileage of only 16,000 (about 26,000 kilometers).

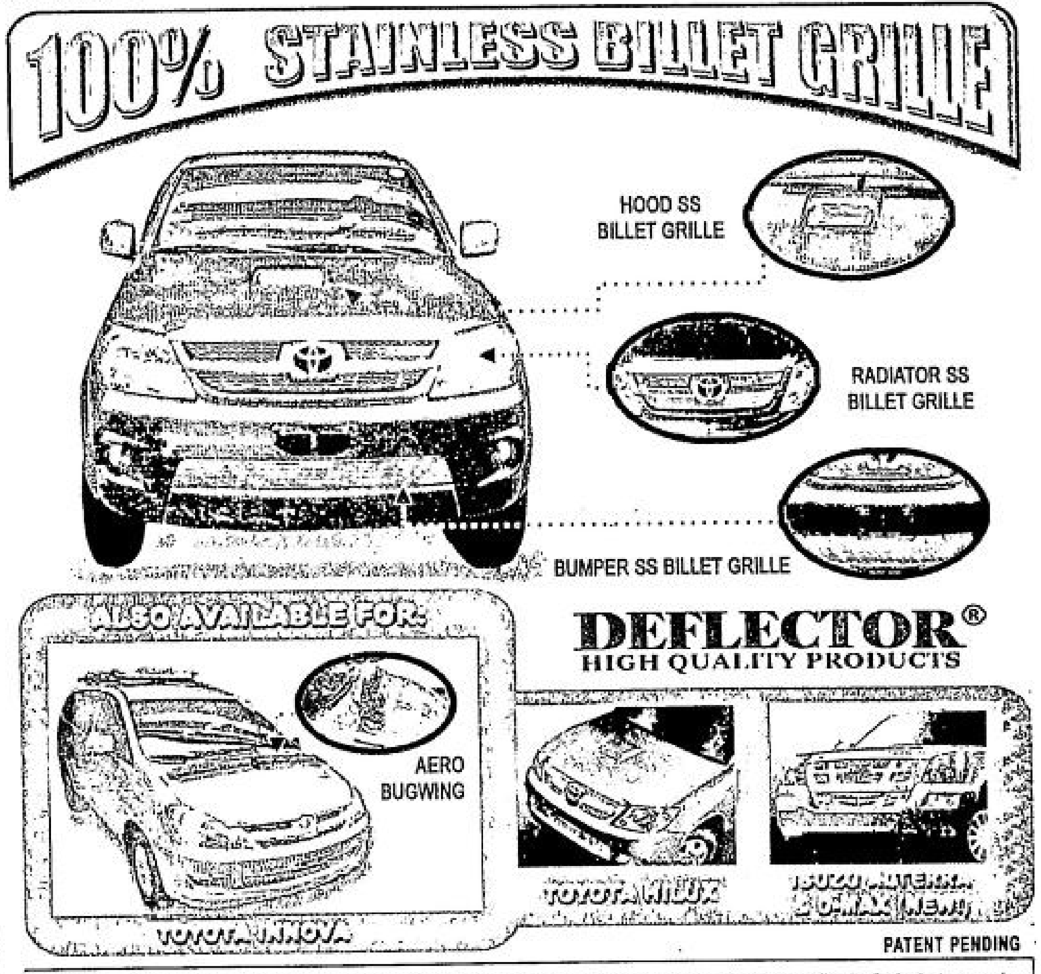
BOONYARID'S classic philosophy: "Check your engine, belt, tires, radiator and plan ahead before each trip. It is the same with life."

Tiny space

Boonyarid then pointed to this writer a tiny space behind the passenger seats of the two-door 190 SL. This was where he was placed and "fed" when his parents brought him along for their Sunday drives when he was still a baby, he says with a laugh.

Now, at 50, the car still looks as new

TOYS/ B2-2



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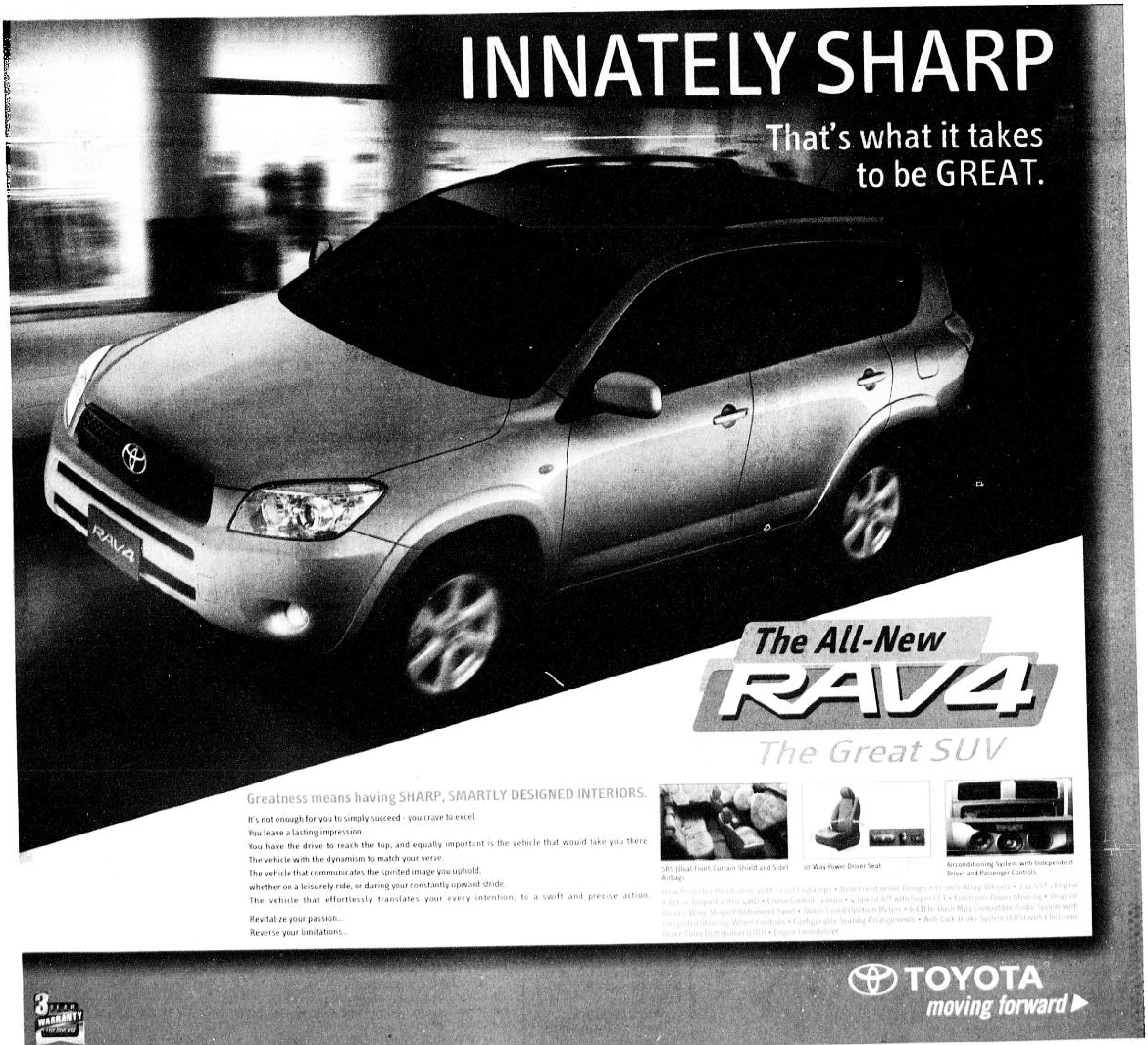

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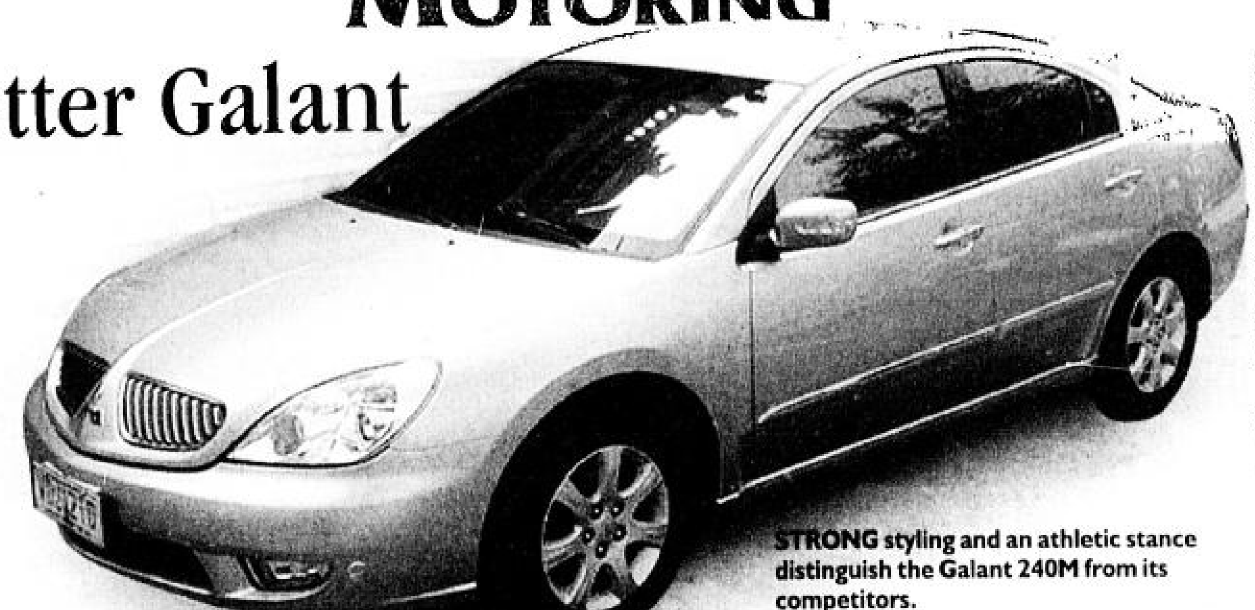
The bigger, better Galant

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza



STRONG styling and an athletic stance distinguish the Galant 240M from its competitors.

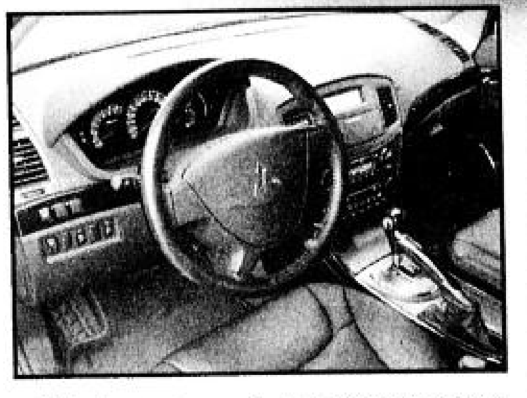
MANY YEARS AGO, THE MITSUBISHI Galant was the only midsize sedan sold in this country. But with the entry of the Honda Accord, Nissan Cefiro and Toyota Camry in the 1990s, the Galant gradually lost its pole position in the executive car market.

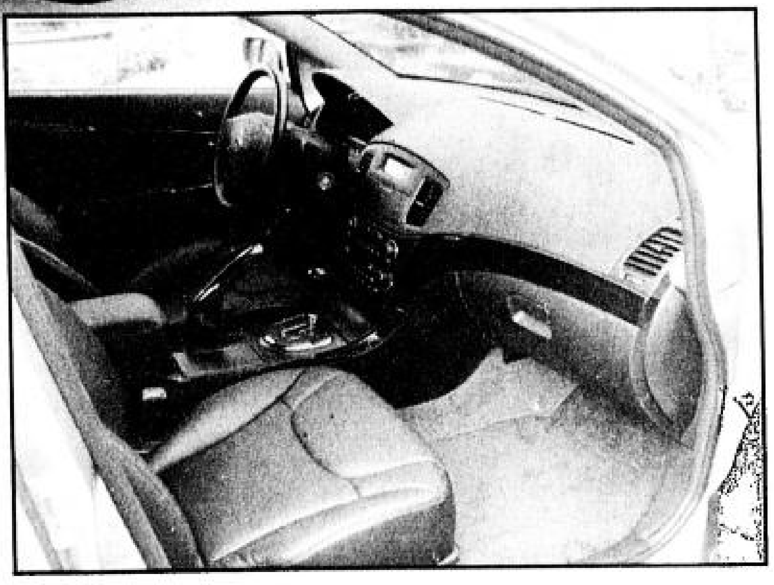
Comes now the Galant 240M, a totally new, bigger iteration with a longer (by 4.6 inches) wheelbase, 3 inches added to the overall length and 4 inches to the width. Powered by a 4-in-line, 16-valve, 2.4-liter Mivec (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing and Electronic Control) engine producing 160 bhp/5500 rpm and 22.3 kg-m/4000 rpm max torque, the Galant 240M looks ready to overtake the competition.

I emphasize "looks ready" because by its appearance alone, the Galant 240M is already a winner. Mitsubishi—the manufacturer of the Lancer Evolution, one of the fastest cars in the world—has never lost its reputation as the builder of cars that not only win rallies, but also look good. And this is clearly seen in the Galant 240M.

Stands out

Park this Galant beside its competitors in the midsize sedan class and you will see what I mean. While the others look conservative and sedate, as commonly expected of vehicles designed for executives and their families, the Galant 240M—with its sleek and curvy profile highlighted by a dramatically rakish windshield leading up to a gracefully sloping roofline—stands out. More than the other executive cars from Japan, the Galant 240M catches your eye because of its strong styling and athletic stance.





NOTE the dramatically rakish windshield and gracefully sloping roofline.
(Left) INSIDE THE GALANT, ice blue on black instruments, darkwood and chrome trim, black leather seats.

This is not to say that the Galant 240M's masculine good looks are all that it's got going for it. This Galant operates quietly and smoothly with adequate power despite its size and heft. Its stiff platform, best-in-class 2750 mm wheelbase and wide tread guarantee wheels planted to the ground and stability caroming around corners and twisting roads. This car does not need 17-inch wheels to look sporty and improve road grip. Seven-spoke, 16-inch wheels shod with low-profile tires suit it perfectly.

The Galant is built on the same platform as the Eclipse sports car and the Endeavor, Mitsubishi's new crossover SUV which has a car-like, front-wheel-drive unitized steel chassis with hydroformed components, firm cross members and subframe sections fore and aft increasing strength and rigidity in support of the suspension equipment.

Extra smart

A comfortable ride is provided by the all-wheel independent suspension system with McPherson struts up front, multilink with coil springs at the rear, stabilizer bars fore and aft and gas-charged shock absorbers. The 4-speed automatic transmission (AT) with Invecs-II (Intelligent and Innovative Vehicle Electronic Control System) and Sportronic mode is extra smart: Invecs-II has an adaptive controller keyed to a computer that learns your driving habits and manipulates shift patterns to suit your driving style. The AT shifts surely; it only hunted a bit while tackling the steep, 35-degree incline of the test course at Forest Hills, Antipolo used for the 2005 Car of the Year (Coty) event. (Having been launched in January 2006, the 240M could not be included in the tests for the 2005 Coty.)

Meanwhile, the 2.4 Mivec engine increases your driving enthusiasm by switching between two different cam profiles for optimum power, response and efficiency at high- and low-engine speeds.

But even before you get to drive the 240M, once you step into its cabin you will be impressed. Darkwood and chrome trim define the beltline while supportive seats covered by soft black leather hide enhance the interior's quietly rich, luxurious ambience. The Galant 240M is the most spacious in the midsize sedan segment due to its best-in-class cabin room length of 1997 mm. Visibility is excellent, especially to the rear because of the slim C pillars. Cargo volume is estimated at 13.30 cu. ft., slightly less than the Accord's.

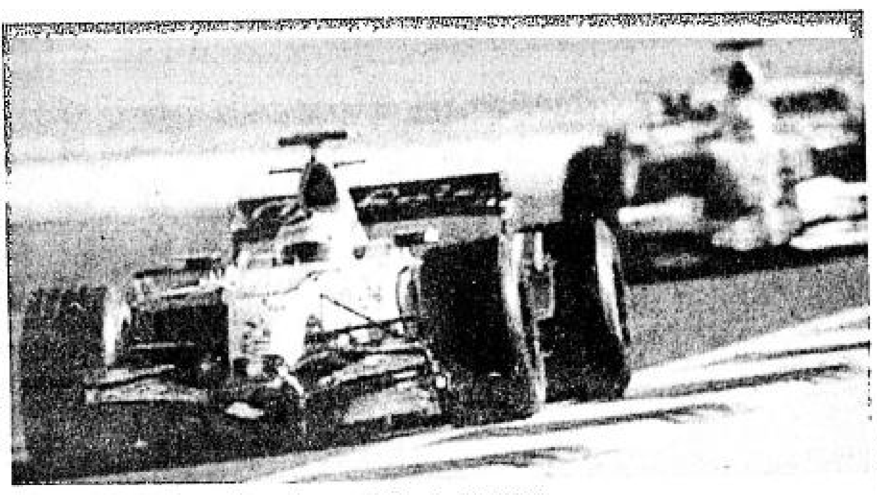
Liked most

There isn't enough space here to list all the gadgets and conveniences on board the 240M. What I liked most were the automatic-on quad headights, side mirrors with integrated turn lamps, 8-way power adjustable driver seat, ice-blue on black electro-luminescent instruments, integrated CD/MP3/FM/AM stereo system, retractable front-door pockets, rear sunshade, rear aircon vents supplementing the auto climate controls up front and rear bumper parking sensors.

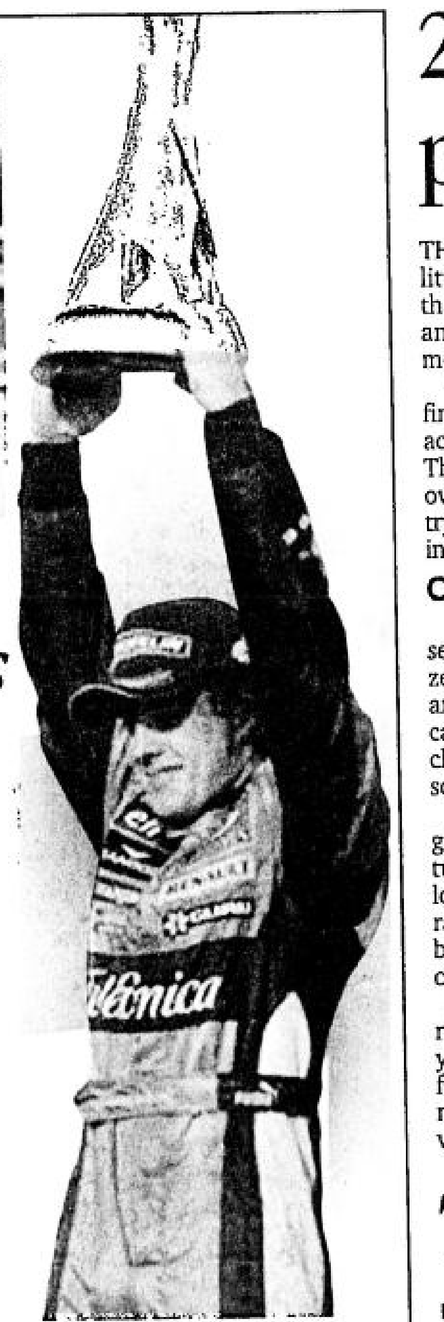
What I didn't like was that there is only one airbag. Otherwise, the safety features are up to par, including ABS with EBD, 4-wheel disc brakes, halogen fog lamps. Summing up, the Galant 240M is a joy to drive, ride and/or look at. So, at P1.548 million it handsomely delivers value for money.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?



FERNANDO Alonso in action at Bahrain GP 2006



FERNANDO Alonso first on podium after Bahrain GP 2006

Mild Seven Renault wins in Bahrain Grand Prix

MILD SEVEN RENAULT FORMULA One (F1) team driver and reigning world champion Fernando Alonso could not have started the 2006 season in better form.

The Bahrain Grand Prix (GP) was a dogfight between two world champions, with Alonso emerging victorious against Ferrari's Michael Schumacher after 57 laps. It was a duel that went all the way to the checkered flag, in a race filled with action and drama. McLaren's Räikkönen finished third, completing the top three spots on the podium.

"What a great way to start the season! That was some race. The car was perfect, the strategy was spot on, and everything just felt brilliant," Alonso gushed after the race.

The ecstatic Alonso said the start of the 2006 race is even more special for the Mild Seven Renault F1 Team.

A lot of pride

"We arrived in Bahrain as the reigning champions, so there's a lot of pride when you take to the track. There's a lot of pressure too, and with less practice and a new qualifying format, that pressure was always going to be intense," he explained.

Fernando Alonso was fourth on the starting grid, with Michael Schumacher on pole, followed by the Ferrari of Felipe Massa and the Honda of Jenson Button.

The start of the race saw the definitive pace of the Renault, with a determined Alonso taking second place to Massa with just three corners into the first lap.

Tough battle

But the Spaniard narrowly escaped disaster on the eighth lap when the Ferrari of Massa overtook him while spinning into a corner. From then on, it was a tough battle between Schumacher and Alonso for the lead.

"The first part of the race we just played our strategy. I wasn't too worried about Schumacher's lead, and when it came time to make our own stops, we knew the pace we had to run. I had a bit of a shock when Massa spun out and nearly took me with him, but other than that it was pretty straight forward," Alonso said.

It wasn't until the second round of pit stops when the race tipped in favor of Team Renault. Schumacher came in for his second and final stop on lap 36 and Alonso was in for his stop three laps later.

Team strategy

The team strategy was for Alonso to set quick laps following Schumacher's stop, and as the champion was on his way out of the pits, Schumacher's Ferrari was heading down the straight, ready to challenge the Renault into the first corner.

Alonso and Schumacher were side by side into the first corner, but the Spaniard was quicker to respond, so he was able to take the better line and grab the lead from the Ferrari.

"The car was perfectly balanced and felt really good all afternoon, so even when Michael was trying to get past again, I felt sure we had enough to keep him behind," Alonso commented.

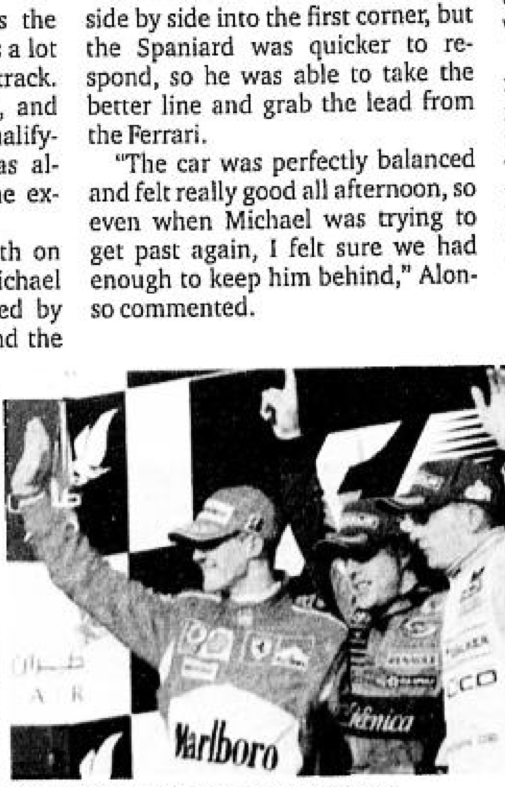
Victory No. 1 for the team

It was a very tight battle for the remainder of the race, with barely a second separating the Renault and the Ferrari. Alonso was able to defend his position all the way through the checkered flag and seal victory No. 1 for the team.

Formula One could not have had a more intense start for 2006 with the results of the Bahrain GP laying out the foundations for a fantastic season. The defending champions Mild Seven Renault F1 Team and Fernando Alonso are starting 2006 where they left off in 2005, ably defending their titles against clear challengers—Ferrari, McLaren and Honda.

"'It felt great to be back racing again, and to get the season started with a win. It's a long year ahead of us, and on the back of this weekend, I think the Mild Seven Renault F1 Team will be at the sharp end of the racing all season,'" predicted the world champion.

The next GP—in Sepang, Malaysia—is set on Sunday and is predicted to create more thrills and excitement in what is expected to be a very close and interesting season.



THE WINNERS at Bahrain GP 2006

2006 Volvo ownership packages made available

THERE ARE SOME WHO SAYS IT'S A little boxy, that all cars are as safe as Volvos, that a Volvo's natural habitat is the slow lane, and that most can't afford a Volvo. But as mentioned, these are all myths.

Visit the Volvo showrooms now and you'll find out that the latest range of Volvo vehicles is actually one of the industry's best valued. Through competitive pricing and the Volvo ownership packages, you actually get the industry's most convenient rates and terms for your investment.

Choices

Take the stylish and dynamic Volvo S40 sedan and V50 Sportswagon, for instance. For zero percent interest, 50 percent down payment and 24 months-to-pay financing scheme, you can already enjoy the innovative features (including the world's first free-floating center console) and superb road-handling of these cars.

Or if you prefer the sportier sedan with bigger space, choose between the 2.0L S60 and its turbocharged sibling the Volvo S60 T5. For as low as P35,347.22 a month, you get the exhilaration of getting behind the wheel of a purebred European sport sedan with clever technology and five-star performance.

Should you wish for a more refined and luxurious ride, the S80 could be the best choice for you. Sink into supple leather seats and savor first-class travel with its 50 percent down payment financing scheme payable in 36 months without interest. Utmost comfort and magnificent ride can easily be at your fingertips with this ownership package.

For a more robust and versatile motoring adventure, the Volvo XC70 caters to both your off-road and in-city driving dynamics. Avail yourself of the 0 percent interest, 30 percent down payment, 24-months to pay ownership package and experience a new breed of technology.

Choose your own adventure with the world's first seven-seater SUV with Rollover Protection System. The Volvo XC90 can be yours through a zero percent interest, 50 percent down payment, 12 months-to-pay ownership deal. This is an all-wheel-drive all-roader that takes all of your concerns in consideration.

Volvo ownership packages

All Volvo ownership packages include a 2-year warranty, Volvo genuine car mats, 3M tint, free one year registration, and to bring you more peace of mind, a 24-hour roadside assistance service.

So if you still think that you can't afford a Volvo, think again. Or better yet, go to your nearest Volvo showroom and inquire about the Volvo ownership packages for your model of choice.

In Manila, Viking Cars Inc. is the official distributor of Volvo cars. The Volvo Makati office, showroom and Aftersales Service Center are located at 2272 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City while Volvo Ortigas Center is located at 88 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Volvo Cebu is located at A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City.

Toys for the rich boys . . .

From page B2-1

as the day it was bought. The baby who tagged along for the joyride is now behind the wheels. With an obvious sigh of relief, this writer was asked to sit beside Boonyarid and not asked to get the feel of being driven like a baby in an MB 190 SL.

On this particular ride-and-drive program, the "Red Angel" and the rest of the Mercedes-Benz classic cars then motored up the mountainside to the peak of Doi Suthep in Chiang Mai in the northern part of Thailand. The ride-and-drive gathered more than 70 MB clubs worldwide, which included the Philippine contingent.

This would be a special run for the MB Classic Car Club of Thailand, for this marked the first time a classic car club has gone up Doi Suthep. Doi Suthep is like Baguio of the Philippines, and offers a panoramic view of Chiang Mai and the Mae Ping river valley.

Boonyarid's wife had also tagged along for the ride and was seated in a "Blue Angel" 300 Cabriolet D from 1952. Boonyarid describes his 190 SL as "compact, not too big, and just the right size for me."

Hobby for the wealthy?

Boonyarid challenges the notion that a person needs to be wealthy to own a classic car. "If you're not wealthy, you can find a less expensive classic," he stresses.

A cheap classic sedan (an MB W114) can be bought (as is, where is) for as low as 50,000 baht (around P65,000). Restoring it to its "old glory" is another story, though. That same car would require up to 100,000 baht around P130,000) to end up having that nice, classic look.

Despite its age, Boonyarid's "Red Angel" has kept its devilish temperament. That's why, Boonyarid explains amid the distinctive din of the engine, he treats it "delicately."

By delicately, Boonyarid also meant not stressing the rare engine parts unnecessarily. He drove up and down the mountainside gingerly, mindful of the engine temperatures while going uphill. Going downhill, Boonyarid never used the footbrakes alone, utilizing the engine and hand brakes as well.

Like living

Waxing philosophical on his classic car, Boonyarid says: "Working with classic cars is like living. You have to be patient because there are obstacles in life. You need to be prepared. Prior to each trip, check your engine, belt, tires and radiator and plan ahead. It is the same with life."

And that rings true for oldtimers like the Red Angel. It gets its regular oil changes, tune-ups and checkups. Classic cars, says Boonyarid, involve no digital or electronic instrumentations and gadgets. So, they are easy and straightforward to maintain and troubleshoot. It is built to last, he says. Or maybe while supplies last along with the car.

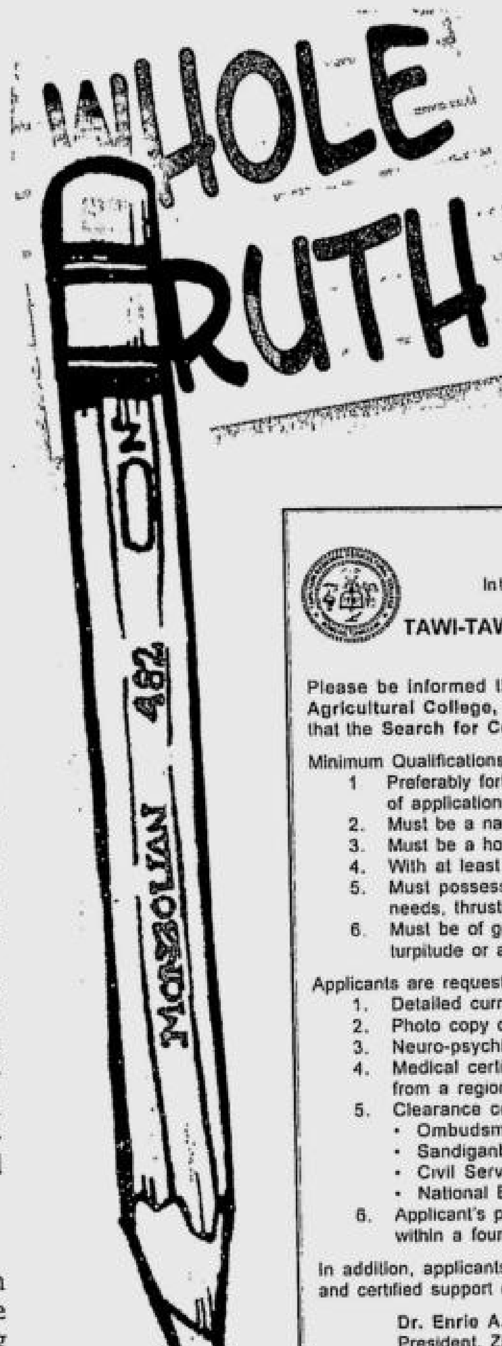
The Red Angel is Boonyarid's favorite among his family of classic Benzes. He also possesses a W187 220 Saloon, W111 Coupé, W109 (model 1972) and

W114 (model 1969). His everyday car is a W210 MB E class. His wife drives an SLK 200.

Choosing to drive with the top down, Boonyarid says he does it not to show off but to hear the "music."

"Outside is the music. It"s better than any other music."

The whole truth and nothing but…



THE DAY-TO-DAY TRAVAILS OF A MOTORing hack are filled with moments where some very serious decisions have to be made. In an industry built on relationships, it is critical that said interpersonal and intercorporate associations are professional at the very least. Yet it is in that very word, professional, where the fault in our own profession can be found.

Let me cite a situation at the readers so they can attempt to place themselves in the shoes of those who would humbly submit their expert advice about cars and motoring. It is my hope that this gives a glimpse of what sort of compromises are made when dealing with the automotive truth.

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

You find yourself fortunate enough to be the lead writer of a new vehicle that is just about to break cover. In fact, this is happening at least a few weeks before news of such a car is even supposed to leak to the public. Your team heads for the manufacturer's headquarters to pick up two pristine units for the purpose of a one-day test drive and a comprehensive photo shoot. Everything goes rather well.

The new car's dynamics are superb, the engine is potent, but the choice of gearboxes could have been better—something short of a two thumbs-up review for a new vehicle. It looks like this is going to end well for both the media and the manufacturer, as you get your story (plus a good drive) and they get their positive review.

A worrisome warning

Let's just now throw a monkey wrench into this PR fairy tale in the making. In the process of the hustle and bustle of having to get both seat time, driving impressions and the images needed for a substantial piece, one of the shoot staff makes a startling discovery. All the while as one of the test cars was idling off-camera at the photo locale, the "check engine" light was on—something of a worrisome warning on such a near zero mileage, brand spanking new vehicle.

Rather than attempt to solve the issue personally, the decision is made to ring the manufacturer to inform them of the issue at hand. The response is both simple and chilling. The problem had been noted and, in fact, happens to other models of the same basic vehicle. Thank you, have a nice day.

As the lead writer, concerned about the repercussions of such a revealing fault code (and of revealing such occurrence to the public), you ask your editor in chief what to do. Sometimes decisions have to go up the chain of command; we underlings are often so spineless to make calls so large and filled with ramifications.

A manufacturing glitch

This time the answer is simple, calculated and very convincing. The problem at hand is simply a manufacturing glitch, but one that is probably peculiar to the newness of the vehicle. Chalk it up to teething issues at the production line. Being very palatable and easy to digest, the check engine light is filed away in the very back of your consciousness.

Everything goes well with the launch and your article is accepted quite well by the manufacturer—despite some deserved criticism about the automatic gearbox. You part ways redirecting the thanks that is showered on your work.

"Good cars make good reviews, don't thank me, thank the fact that your car is solid and quite a handler," you say, almost cringing at the "solid" part mainly because of the check engine incident that your conscience just reminded you of. Rationalization then comes into play.

The check engine was really there but this is something that the manufacturer will probably fix over the production of the thousands of units that they will sell. In fact, this was just probably a really unfortunate glitch, as this very model is exported to other countries already, right? Build quality problems will be a huge concern abroad, not only as a financial issue but one of national pride, too. Imagine someone writing off the same problem to the fact that it's because the car was built in the Philippines. The idea is just too ugly to process and frankly, just a doomsday scenario of sorts, probably coming from a worry wart. Everything should be fine.

One-on-one shootout

A few weeks later, one of the cars from the same manufacturer falls into your assignment schedule. This time it is a one-on-one shootout with the current volume leader from a Japanese manufacturer. You are confident that there is, at the very least, a new performance leader in the nascent vehicle that you are about to test.

This is going to be a good day—another of those days spent driving and critically assessing two very decent platforms. Then, as you take the driver's seat and start up the vehicle, something's amiss with the instrumentation cluster. After the ignition process, where all the lights come on and off eventually, one remains lit: the check engine lamp. You sit stunned, staring at the tiny little lamp: the beacon of your compromise.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the Name of God, Most Beneficent, Most Merciful
Republic of the Philippines
TAWI-TAWI REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
Nalil, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

Please be informed that the Board of Trustees of the Tawi-Tawi Regional Agricultural College, Nalil, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi formally and publicly announces that the Search for College President is NOW OPEN.

Minimum Qualifications for the SUC Presidency (Per BOT Res. No. 05-2006).

1. Preferably forty (40) years old but not more than 61 years old on the date of application for the position.
2. Must be a natural born citizen of the Philippines.
3. Must be a holder of a Doctoral Degree
4. With at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience.
5. Must possess leadership and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objectives of the college.
6. Must be of good moral character. Conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude or administrative charge shall be a ground for disqualification

Applicants are requested to submit the following requirements:

1. Detailed curriculum vitaé
2. Photo copy of transcript of records or diploma
3. Neuro-psychiatric evaluation result
4. Medical certificate of physical fitness issued by a government physician from a regional medical center
5. Clearance certificates from:
   - Ombudsman
   - Sandiganbayan
   - Civil Service Commission
   - National Bureau of Investigation
6. Applicant's proposed vision, mission and development plan for the college within a four-year period.

In addition, applicants are requested to submit five (5) sets of formal applications and certified support documents not later than **5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2006** to:

Dr. Enrie A. Caraecle
President, Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology
PASUC-IX Regional Chair
Fort Pilar, Zamboanga City.
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ITB NO.: 02-05-2006 MAC

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : One (1) lot Janitorial Service for Casino Filipino – Mactan
Required Personnel: 38 Janitors

Approved Budget : Eight Million Eight Hundred Nine Thousand Three Hundred Eighty One & 92/100 Pesos (Php 8,809,381.92)

Contract Duration : Two (2) years

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573 or at the Branch Property Office – CF-Mactan, Airport Road, Lapu-Lapu City, Tel. (032) 340-4032.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	March 3, 2006–March 30, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	March 17, 2006 (2pm)
3. Submission of Bids	March 31, 2006 (2pm)
4. Opening of Bids	March 31, 2006 (2pm onwards)

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Flr. PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila or at the BBAC Secretariat – CF-Mactan upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Four Thousand Four Hundred Four & 69/100 Pesos (Php 4,404.69).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BBAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the Branch Bids and Awards Committee, CF-Mactan.

(Sgd.) NILO C. OMOLON
Chairperson, BBAC CF-MACTAN

(PDI - March 8 & 15, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
SECURITY SERVICES FOR NFA REGION VII

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its Corporate Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum of SIX MILLION ONE HUNDRED FORTY-TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE PESOS AND NINETY CENTAVOS (P 6,142,259.90) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract of Security Services for NFA Region VII for the period covering May 31, 2006 at 3:00 PM to 3.00 PM of December 31, 2006. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for 2006 Security Services of NFA Region VII. Delivery of the GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed in the following NFA offices and warehouses:

Location	No. of Guards	ABC Guard /Month (Php)	ABC Guard/ Day (Php)	Maximum No. of Days/Mo.	Maximum No. of Months	Total ABC (Php)
LOT 1 (CebuProvince)						
Regular Posting						
Cebu City	22	12,075.92			7	1,859,691 68
Badian/Bogo	8	11.373.33			7	636.906 48
Sta Fe/Tudela	8	10.299 03			7	576.745 68
Sub-total	38					3,073,343.84
Special Events						
Unloading						
– Cebu City	3		402 53	15	7	126 796.95
– Sta Fe	3		343 30	3	7	21 627.90
– Tudela	3		343.30	4	7	28 837 20
Cebu Province						
– Dispersal to Provinces	3		402 53	37	7	312,765.81
Dispersal to Units	3		402.53	5	7	42.265 65
Sub-total	15					532 293 51
Total for LOT 1	53					3,605,637.35
LOT 2 (Bohol)						
Regular Posting						
Tagbilaran	13	10,836.12			7	986.086 92
Carmen	3	10 836.12			7	227.558 52
Ubay	3	10,836.12			7	227.558 52
Sub-total	19					1,441.203.96
Special Events						
Unloading-Tagbilaran	3		361 20	15	7	113.778 00
– Ubay	1		361 20	3	7	7,585 20
Sub-total	4					121 363 20
Total of LOT 2	23					1,562,567.16
LOT 3 (Negros Or. & Siquijor)						
Regular Posting						
Dumaguete	6	10.836 12			7	455,117.04
Guihulngan	3	10,836.12			7	227,558 52
Siquijor	3	10.299 03			7	216,279 63
Sub-total	12					898,955 19
Special Events						
Dumaguete	3		361 20	8	7	60 681.60
Siquijor	3		343 30	2	7	14 418 60
Sub-total	6					75.100 20
Total of LOT 3	18					974,055.39
Grand Total	94					6,142,259.90

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (telephone numbers: (032)232-1939 / (032)233-6095, e-mail address: nfaro7@cvis net ph; website: www.nfacebu net ph) and inspect the Bidding Documents at *NFA, Banilad, Cebu City* starting March 8-15, 2006 from 8.00 AM to 5:00 PM. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)* in cash.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***March 16, 2006 @ 09:00 AM*** at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City.*

Bids & eligibility requirements must be delivered during the bid opening on ***March 31, 2006 @ 09:00 AM*** at ***NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr, Banilad, Cebu City.*** All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof: Cash or Cashier's Check or Manager's Check - one percent (1%), or Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand" - two & half percent (2.5%). Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) PIOLITO C. SANTOS
RBAC Chairman ARD

(PDI – March 8 & 15, 2006)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Reference:
Date : March 03 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Construction and Installation of 50 MVA Auto-Transformer and Associated Equipment for Daraga Station (Sp05.DGSS.LI-0043R)

Installing and/or erecting high voltage equipment such as 50 MVA Power Transformer including accessories; 230 & 69 kV Power Circuit Breakers, its associated Disconnect Switches and Instrument Transformers including metering, control, protection; and construction of warehouse. The project is located at Barangay Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay in Bicol Region.

1 The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TransCo)** through the **Annual Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing board**, intends to apply the sum of **PHP 22,530,359.00** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Construction and Installation of 50 MVA Auto-Transformer and Associated Equipment for Daraga Substation (Sp05.DGSS.LI-0043)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2 **TransCo** now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for **furnishing labor, materials, equipment (except materials specified to be furnished by TransCo) supplies, tools and technical services including, delivery and installing of high voltage substation equipment and other works to complete the Project.** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before date and time stated below at the address given below and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of non-refundable fee of stated below. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a **"pass/fail"** basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents stated below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. PCAB License and Registration Particular required should be as follows.

License Particular — **at least Category "B", SP-Electrical Works**
Registration Particular — **at least "Medium A", SP-Electrical Works**

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

4 Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the address given below.

5 Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **TransCo** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BCMD at the address given below.

6 A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as stated below. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting from the schedule specified below.

7 **TransCo** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on the schedule specified below.

8 Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before the schedule of submission and opening specified below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and in amount stated in the Bidding Documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

9 The Contractor shall complete the works within **One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days** counted from the effective date stated in the Notice to Proceed.

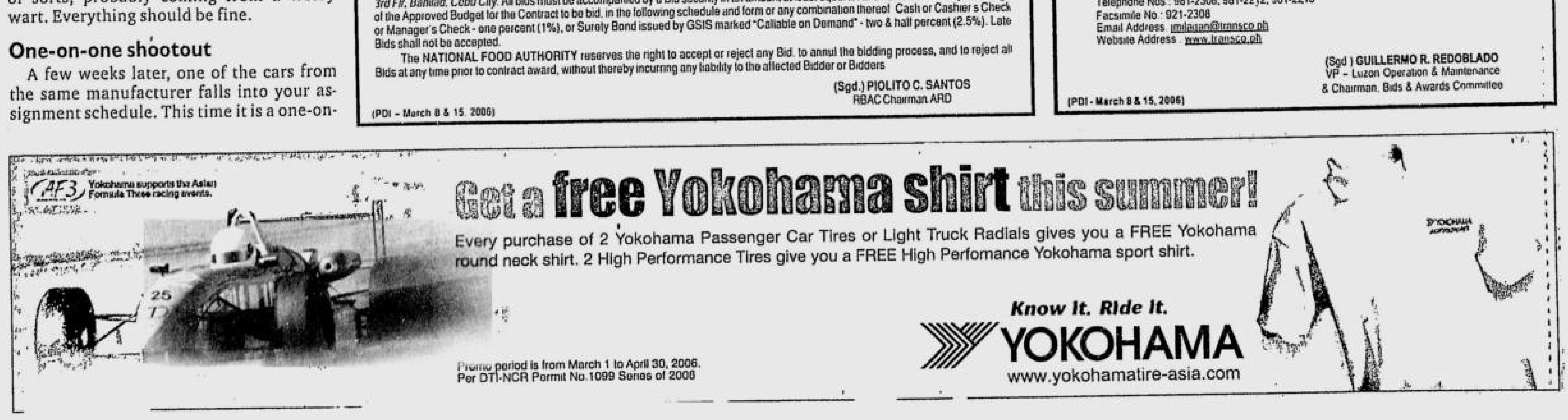
10 **TransCo** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

	Activity	Date	Venue
a.	Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Starting March 06, 2006 8 00 AM to 5 00 PM	BCMD office address below
b.	Submission & Opening of Eligibility Documents	March 20, 2006 9:00 AM	De La Paz Function Room Training Center Bldg., TransCo, Diliman Quezon City
	Issuance of Bidding Documents	Starting April 07, 2006 8 00 AM to 5 00 PM	BCMD office address below
d.	Site Inspection	April 18-19, 2006	Daraga Substation
e.	Pre-Bid Conference	April 25, 2006, 1:30 PM	BCMD office address below
f.	Bid Submission & Opening	May 09, 2006, 9.00 AM	BCMD office address below
	Cost of Eligibility documents per copy		P 800.00
	Cost of Bidding documents per copy		P 7,000.00

Mr. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, **Bids and Contracts Management Department** (BCMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building
Power Center, Quezon Avenue cor. BIR Road
Diliman Quezon City 1104
Telephone Nos.: 981-2308; 981-2212; 981-2213
Facsimile No.: 921-2308
Email Address: jmilagan@transco.ph
Website Address: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
VP – Luzon Operation & Maintenance
& Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - March 8 & 15, 2006)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Promo period is from March 1 to April 30, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1099 Series of 2006

Too many visiting relatives?

Check out the AUTOMOBILE-RENTING classification in the

DPC YELLOW PAGES

Let's heed Mendoza's appeal

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

THE ALLIANCE OF CONCERNED TRUCK Owners and Organizations, represented (apparently) by Ricky Papa, said: "…the truckers are now again at the receiving end of a half-baked, capriciously implemented law." That line is an excerpt from Papa's piece detailing his plaints against the Anti-Overloading Law that appeared in the PDI Letters Section (03/11/06). He gave his address as actoo94@gmail.com.

The law Papa is trying to question is the Republic Act 8794, otherwise known as the Anti-Overloading Law, which allows a truck a maximum load of 13.5 metric tons per axle when traveling anywhere in the country. Anyone violating the law merits an apprehension and a fine.

I happen to like the law because it protects our roads from getting wantonly damaged by overloaded trucks. Not to brag but a lot commended my piece on my crusade to rid the North Luzon Expressway (NLE) of overloaded trucks. Not even one has expressed a contrary opinion on enforcing the law on anti-overloading at the world-class expressway.

Almost once in two weeks, I use the NLE when going home to my roots. Of course with each trip, it makes me feel secure not seeing overloaded trucks whiz by me, not to mention the unbridled delight that goes with it.

No, I did not rediscover the joy of rekindling ties with the barrio folk only very recently. Since I left Pangasinan for Manila for my college degree, I made it a point to go home at the slightest opportunity. That habit has been with me all these years. I know the reason. I'm a hardcore country boy.

* * *

Anyway, the law on overloading is very simple.

When a truck is found to be overloaded, LTO and its appointed deputies are tasked to enforce the law by: 1) Confiscating the driver's license of the violator; 2) Confiscating the plate number of the violating vehicle since the violation is an impoundable offense under R.A. 4136; and, 3) Issuance of a traffic violation ticket called, "Temporary Operating Permit (TOP)." Only upon settling the penalties of 25 percent of the motor vehicle users charge more commonly known as the annual registration fee at the LTO can the apprehended redeem the confiscated driver's license and the license plate.

Many accidents are caused by overloaded trucks. Said DOTC Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza Jr.: "Based on LTO's records, 85 percent of trucks are in violation of the permissible load limits. We can no longer be lenient or tolerant of this practice. The responsibility for making our roads safe for all travelers must be shared by all."

I do my share by ventilating the issues in this space as much as I can.

Mendoza (I must say again that the secretary and I are not related) has appealed to truckers and haulers, thus: "We appeal to all truckers and haulers to comply with the axle load limits allowed on our roads and highways. Please cooperate not simply because of the heavy fines and penalties imposed on violators but more importantly because of safety reasons as well as the preservation of our road network, which is the spirit behind this law."

* * *

I know that many law enforcers do not enforce the anti-overloading law for reasons you and I know fully well. But it's time the law is finally enforced or our roads will forever be in an utter state of disrepair and our safety is forever compromised. It must begin with the truckers heeding the law because a truck observing the load limit is still the best antidote against a corrupt law enforcer.

I know, too, that the nonobservance of the law is rampant nationwide for reasons, again, that you and I know fully well. That is why I doff my hat to Ping de Jesus for consistently standing his ground in disallowing the entry of overloaded trucks at the NLE. He could be the proverbial voice in the wilderness for now but his stand is worthy of commendation and is to be extolled by all law-abiding citizens in this country. I yearn to see the time when Ping's political will would rub off to the entire length of the archipelago.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Brake and not bark at a driver cutting your lane. Good for your heart.

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

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Promo duration March 4 to 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1387, Series of 2006.

*LOW DOWNPAYMENT

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Aveo 1.5 M/T	570,000	59,000	45,495	31,175	24,175	17,204	13,782	12,009	6,831
Aveo 1.5 A/T	610,000	69,000	48,166	33,005	25,595	18,214	14,592	12,715	7,310
Optra 1.6 L M/T	650,000	89,000	49,946	34,225	26,541	18,888	15,131	13,185	7,790
Optra 1.6 L A/T	696,000	89,000	54,042	37,032	28,717	20,436	16,372	14,266	8,341
Optra 1.6 LS M/T	724,000	89,000	56,535	38,740	30,042	21,379	17,127	14,924	8,676
Optra 1.6 LS A/T	770,000	89,000	60,630	41,546	32,218	22,928	18,367	16,005	9,228

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Toyota offers best deals for Innova and Altis

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES (TMP) Corp.—the leading automotive company in the country—launches Best Deals 4 U! The limited customer promo campaign offers all Innova and Altis buyers four irresistible deals: free comprehensive insurance, low down payment, low monthly payments plus free accessories and other items only for the month of March.

Customers will get to choose from a wide array of special privileges starting off with free one-year insurance for all Innova and Altis buyers. Toyota gives away free one-year comprehensive insurance worth more than P33,000 for the Innova and as much as P 27,000 for the Altis.

In addition, customers can also avail of Toyota Value Certificates (TVCs) worth P15,000 for Innova and the Altis. The TVC can be spent on accessories, chattel mortgage, LTO registration, or discount. The TVCs can also be used to avail of special financing packages such as the Low Down Payment or Low Monthly plans, with financing terms ranging from 12 to 60 months.

Flexible financing terms

Get the Innova and the Altis for as low as P100,000 down payment. For instance, an initial down payment of P100,000 will avail a customer of the Innova 2.0 J M/T worth P763,000. Customers can also choose from flexible financing terms to pay for the remaining balance. For a 60-month installment plan, monthly payments can be as low as P15,944. For the Altis 1.6 J M/T for example, monthly payments can be as low as P14,961.

With a 50 percent down payment on the Innova 2.0 J M/T, monthly payments can be as low as P8,834 for 60 months. Similarly, a 50 percent down payment on the Altis 1.6 M/T can be as low as P8,353 for 60 months.

Affordable package

This special customer promo is made possible through Toyota's financial arm, Toyota Financial Services (TFS). TFS recognized the need for a financial package that is affordable and convenient. Thus they introduced the special Lease Plans Scheme with the objective of making Toyota products more affordable through the use of hassle-free leasing packages.

These packages will definitely ease customers' pockets and let them drive home their dream Toyota Altis or Innova. Leasing packages also comes with a minimum term of 24 months and a maximum of 60 months, a 15 percent security deposit, and without chattel mortgage fees.

Best deals await all Innova and Altis buyers this March. This special promo will run until March 31 and is available in all authorized Toyota dealers nationwide.

to be young • to be you • to be you • to be you! • To be you!

LIFESTYLE

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Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

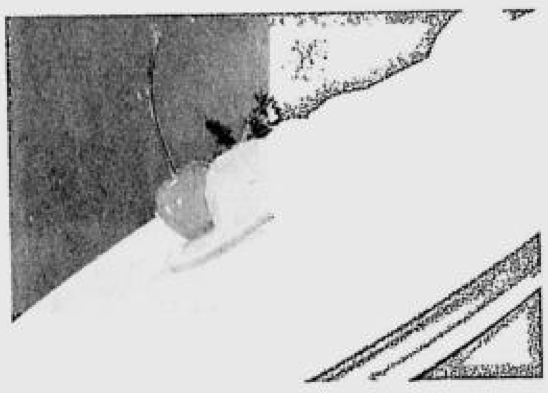
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

Ba [illegible] Manila

Not[illegible]

Part 1

We can hear you groaning. We know that these VAT-plagued times have made life extra-difficult for us. But because we love you, dear readers, we have sent out troops into the city—not to instigate rebellion—but to search for fabulous finds that are easy on the pocket. Get ready for our first serving of unbelievable bargains—great meals, beauty secrets, discount haircuts, budget dating, affordable gimmicks, great reads at a discount, tips from your favorite celebrities and other rocking bargains. And the best part is this: Not a single thing costs over P100.



Read on.

More bargains will come your way soon (after graduation time). Watch out for Part 2 of our Bargain Manila special for the 411 on movie tickets for less, affordable fashion picks and more.

Join The Ranks Of Our Successful Graduates!
General Eduardo Ermita • Bernadette Sembrano • Dr. Nilo Rosas • Fr. Jerry Orbos • Atty. Oscar Orbos • Rufa Mae Quinto • Judge Juan Nabong • Mayor Vilma Santos • Charlene Gonzales • Aiza Seguerra • Side A Band • Bb. Pilipinas Winners • Ritchie Ocampo, Isabel Lopez, Kristine Alzar • Congresswoman Bakunawa • Rory Quintos • Fanny Serrano • Sheryl Cruz • Amy Perez • Nora Aunor

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Apr. 3-7 Mon thru Fri Adults 2-4:30 PM / Kids 9-12 NN

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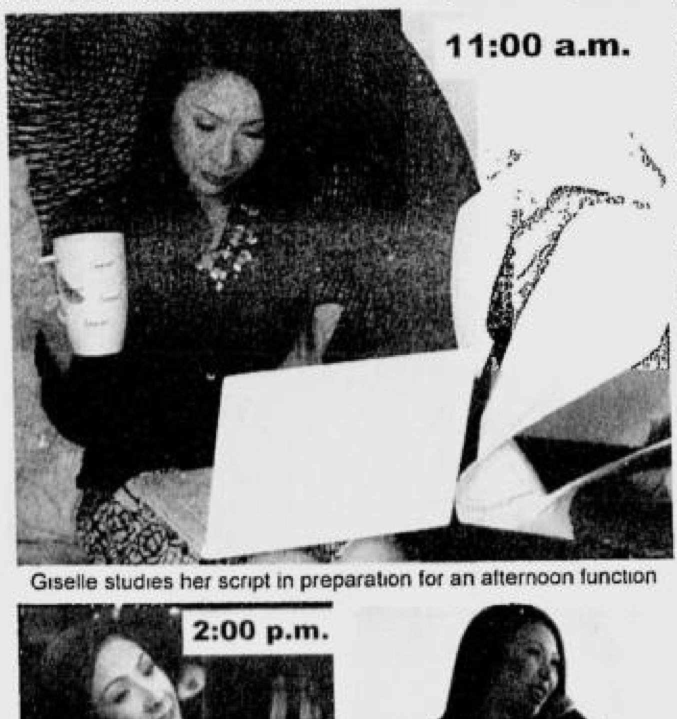
6:30 a.m.

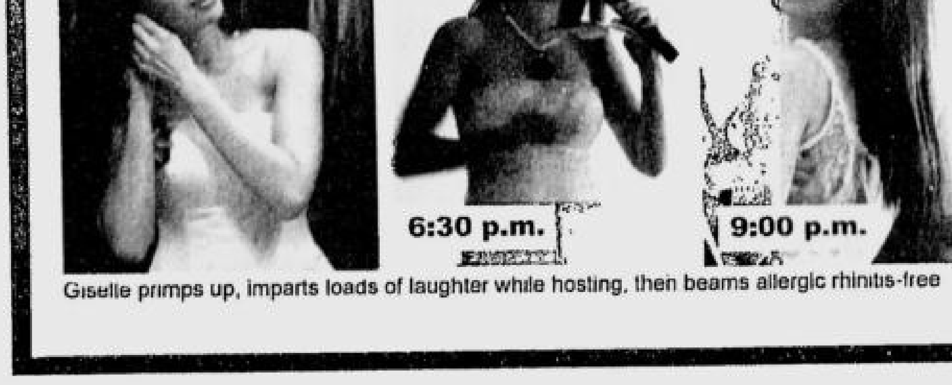
AHHCHOO! Comedienne Giselle Sanchez awakes to endless and bothersome sneezing due to allergic rhinitis

7:15 a.m.
8:00 a.m.

Giselle Sanchez spends quality time with two-year-old daughter Lia


11:00 a.m.

Giselle studies her script in preparation for an afternoon function


2:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
9:00 p.m.

Giselle primps up, imparts loads of laughter while hosting, then beams allergic rhinitis-free

No, thank you, AHHCHOO!

For comedienne Giselle Sanchez, a great day is an allergic rhinitis-free day

It seems Giselle Sanchez is on call 24/7.

The famed sexy comedienne jump starts her day by addressing the bothersome symptoms of allergic rhinitis as she awakes to endless sneezing with runny nose and watery eyes.

She then shares breakfast with her precocious two year old daughter Lia then joins the bundle of joy on her way to school. Her morning is preoccupied reviewing scripts, preparing comedic material, and rehearsing repartees.

Mother and daughter then have lunch, after which Giselle prepares to host an afternoon function. Her hearty laugh, spontaneity, and witty repartee all make her an engaging corporate show host.

"I'm booked for out of town shows weekly and overseas engagements monthly", she reveals. The sexy comedienne is known to impart hilarious fun to both foreigners and Overseas Filipino Workers alike across the globe.

Apart form hosting, this magna cum laude graduate from the University of the Philippines Diliman is busy with stand up comedy and television appearances.

Given her very hectic schedule, Giselle ensures she is able to spend quality time as well with her loving husband Emil at the end of the day.

With these numerous roles she plays, health and disposition are of paramount importance. She could not afford to suffer from allergic rhinitis, a condition she was not aware of until she was examined by a doctor.

"All this time I thought I just had the common cold", sighs Giselle. Allergic rhinitis is a condition where there is swelling in the nose lining or nasal membrane caused by exposure to allergens such as house dust mites, pollen, animal dander or pollution. Usually made of protein, allergens are substances that trigger the symptoms of allergic rhinitis such as sneezing, runny or clogged nose, and itchy, watery red eyes when inhaled by allergic persons.

When one has allergic rhinitis he may sneeze repeatedly – 30, 40 or even 50 consecutive times. The sneezing usually follows a pattern and occurs almost daily, especially upon waking up in the morning.

"My eyes would water and itch, I would have a runny nose and my throat would itch whenever I have allergic rhinitis attacks", Giselle shares. The only time the symptoms would stop is when I take an antihistamine – Benadryl AH (Diphenhydramine Hcl) capsule.

With Benadryl AH capsule, Giselle's mornings, afternoon and evenings can now be AHHCHOO free!

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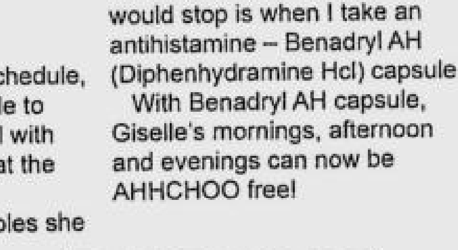

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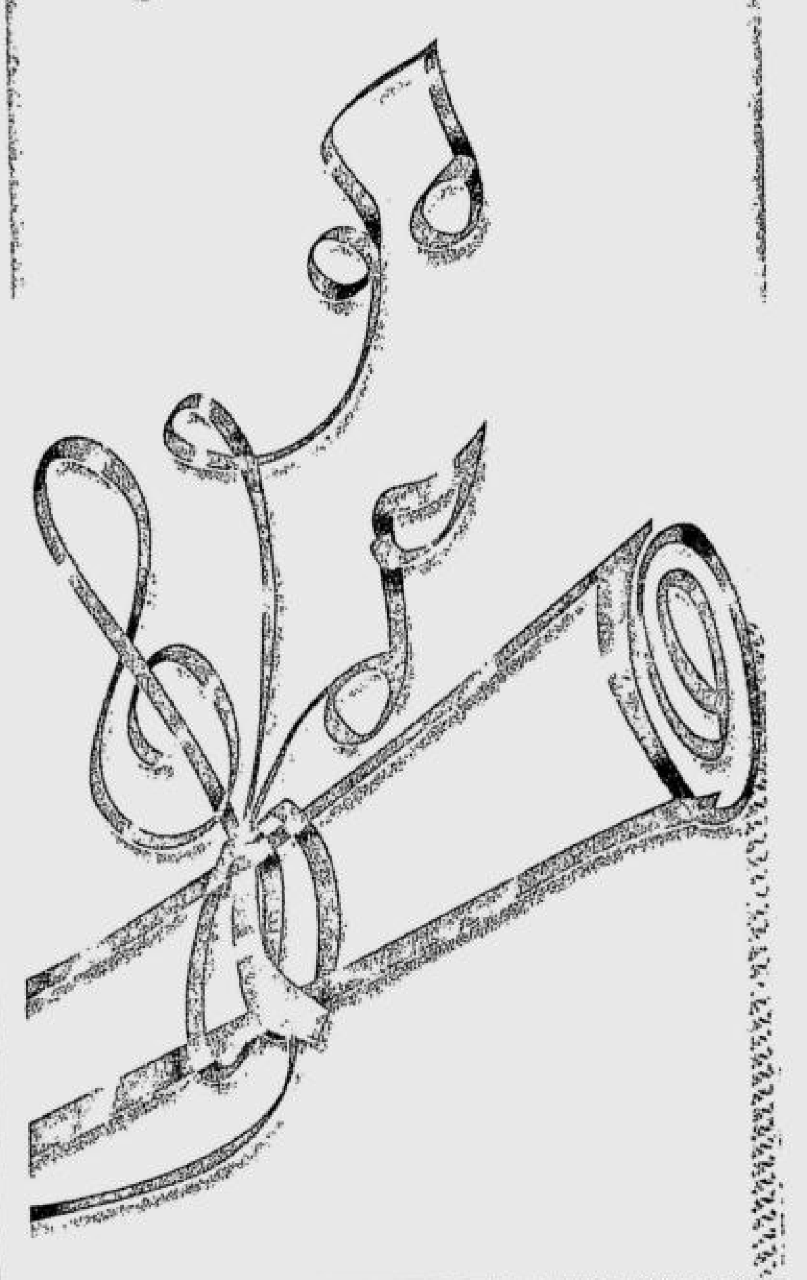

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I Need You	Mark Bautista	NEEDU
How Did you Know	Mark Bautista	KNOW
Huwag Ka Lang Mawawala	Ogie Alcasid	MAWALA

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Masaya	Bamboo	masaya
Inuman Na	Parokya Ni Edgar	inumanna
Umaaraw Umuulan	Rivermaya	arawulan

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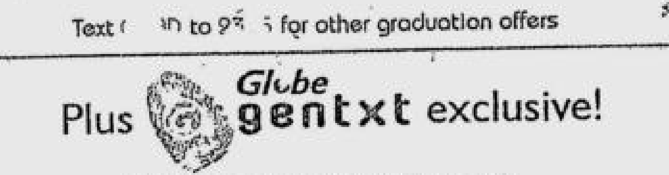
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Chow *for less*

Eat to your tummy's ecstasy in these very affordable food places

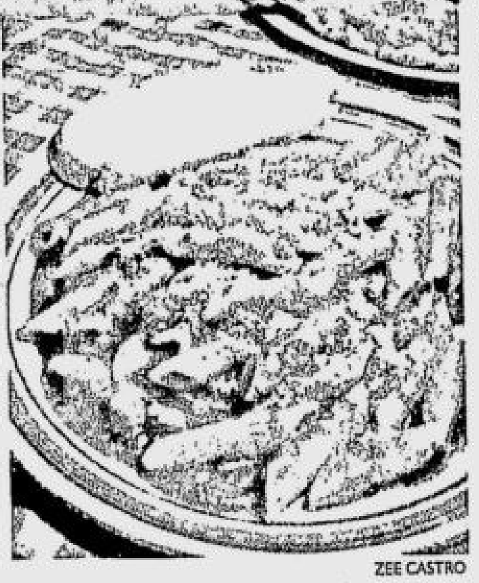
By Pam Pastor; Zee Castro, Mark Sablan and Gmeleen Faye B. Tomboc, *2bu Correspondents*

kopitiam

PHOTOS BY ZEE CASTRO

Location: Tomas Morato, QC (near Cheesecake Etc., and May Bank)
Specialties: Singaporean bread paired off with Kopi or Tea
Bonus: You can buy a set meal for the price of a cappuccino from other coffee shops!
Damage: P45 for Kopi (a Singaporean blend with a heap of condensed milk) and Tea Tarik (a great alternative for non-coffee drinkers!), P55 for Iced Barley (a refreshing new drink!), P35 each for KopiBun (coffee-flavored bun with butter filling) and Kaya Toast (Singaporean version of *pan de coco*). For meal sets, Kopi or Tea with Kaya toast is P75, Kopi or Tea with Kopi Bun and soft-boiled eggs topped with signature sauce is P100. ***ZC***

emiliani's pasta villa



ZEE CASTRO

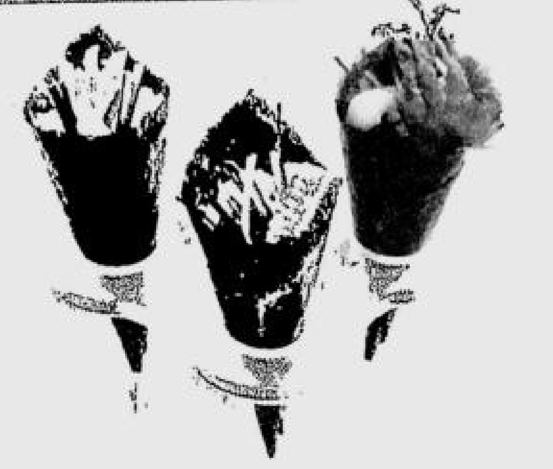
Location: 13 Visayas Ave., Proj. 6. QC
Specialties: Authentic Italian cuisine, with Pasta al Gorgonzola as bestseller
Bonus: Yummy pastas and pizzas, and the resto's ambience is nice and cozy.
Damage: A single serving of Penne alla Arabiata is only P95. The sauce packs some heat, so better tell the chef if you want your Arabiata milder! ***ZC***

country steakhouse

PHOTOS BY ZEE CASTRO

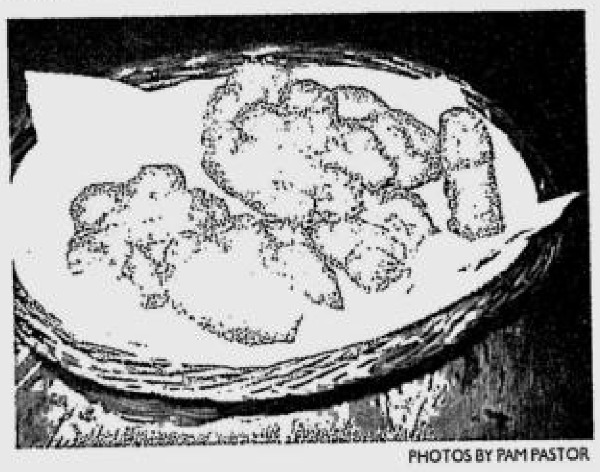
Location: 2/F, 431 Shaw Blvd., right in front of Pure Gold, and above Red Ribbon.
Specialties: Steaks, of course!
Bonus: Delicious and affordable dessert fare
Damage: P45 for Chocolate Ganache Cake (just the right tad of sweet, plus it's served with a scoop of ice cream). Crème Brulee is P45, while yummy cheesecakes are P55 each. ***ZC***

sakae sushi



Location: Crescent West Park in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, and soon at Mall of Asia, Pasay
Specialties: Different varieties of rice, vegetables and seafood treats wrapped in nori such as Ebi Fried, Unagi and Soft Shell Crab Temaki.
Bonus: Entertaining conveyor belt and interactive menu
Damage: Sakae Sushi's hand-rolled creations cost P89 each ***MS***

motorsports alley



PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR

Location: Katipunan Ave. cor. Boni Serrano. It's a car place that turns into a resto-slash-bar at night!
Specialties: The Chicken Nuggets (served with really good barbecue sauce), Ham and Cheese Sticks, Chicken Fingers, Chicken Wings and Nachos.
Bonus: Live music. A lot of unsigned (and some signed) bands play there. Thursdays are open-jam nights so feel free to bring your guitar with you. Also, if you are of drinking age, don't forget to try Motorsports' special drink—the tequila or vodka slush. It comes in many yummy flavors. Iced tea is our favorite.
Damage: P80 for the Chicken Nuggets, P70 for the Ham and Cheese Sticks, P100 for the Chicken Fingers, P90 for the Chicken Wings and P85 for the Nachos. The tequila slush is around P45 per bottle. And the music's free. ***PP***

tasty dumplings

TASTY
DUMPLINGS

PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR

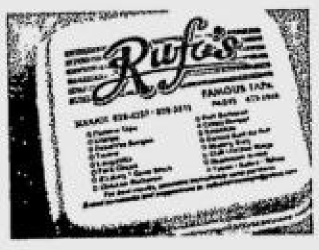
Location: 620 Ongpin St., Bindondo, Manila; 960 G. Masangkay St. Binondo, Manila; 583-585 N.S. Amorato Ave. (former Retiro St.) cor. Banawe St. Quezon City; 218 Wilson St., Greenhills
Specialties: Pork chop rice. The pork chop is huge, extra-tasty and is served over hot sauce-drizzled rice with vegetables on the side. Noodles instead of rice are an option. Other rice meals include spareribs rice, fried meatball rice, fried dumpling rice, chicken leg rice and sweet and sour chicken rice.
Bonus: Tasty Dumplings delivers. Call the Retiro branch at 4117932, 4117921; Wilson branch at 7442654, 7442090; Ongpin branch at 4504880, 2425295; and Masangkay branch at 2448654, 2449362.
Damage: Pork chop rice and pork chop noodles are P85. To upgrade to *bihon*, you'll shell out P92. Other rice meals are from P77 to P91. Noodle and *bihon* soup range from P45-P98. Side orders of dumplings, chicken legs, spareribs, etc. can set you back from P60-P95. ***PP***

metro phi restobar

Location: Metrowalk in Ortigas
Specialties: Sesame Tofu Salad (pan-fried tofu in sweet sesame-soy dressing with Asian vegetable and lettuce topped with mango puree and cashew nuts) and the Greentea cheesecake with coconut cashew crumb crust topped with candied lemon and lime glaze.
Bonus: Lots of healthy yet filling eats
Damage: The salad and the cheesecake are P95 each. ***MS***

rufo's famous tapa

PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR



Location: Salamanca St., cor. Kalayaan Ave., Makati; and San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center (near UA&P)
Specialties: The *tapa*, of course, which has been the resto's specialty for 21 years. Mouth-watering, tender Batangas beef, marinated and served in Rufo's rich, sweet sauce with garlic rice and a side order of fried egg. The Corned Beef a la Rufo is pretty good, too. Other options: *liempo*, boneless *bangus*, chicken barbecue, pork barbecue, *danggit*, *embotido*, chili chicken wings, mushroom *adobo*, the list goes on.
Bonus: The Makati branch is open 24 hours a day. And it delivers. If you're in Makati, call 8994207 or 8993811. If you're in Ortigas, call 6332649.
Damage: Rufo's Famous Tapa will set you back P74 while the Corned Beef a la Rufo is only P56. Prices for the other rice meals start at P60. ***PP***

crepes & cream

Location: The Podium, Ortigas Center and Crescent West Park in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, soon at Mall of Asia, Pasay

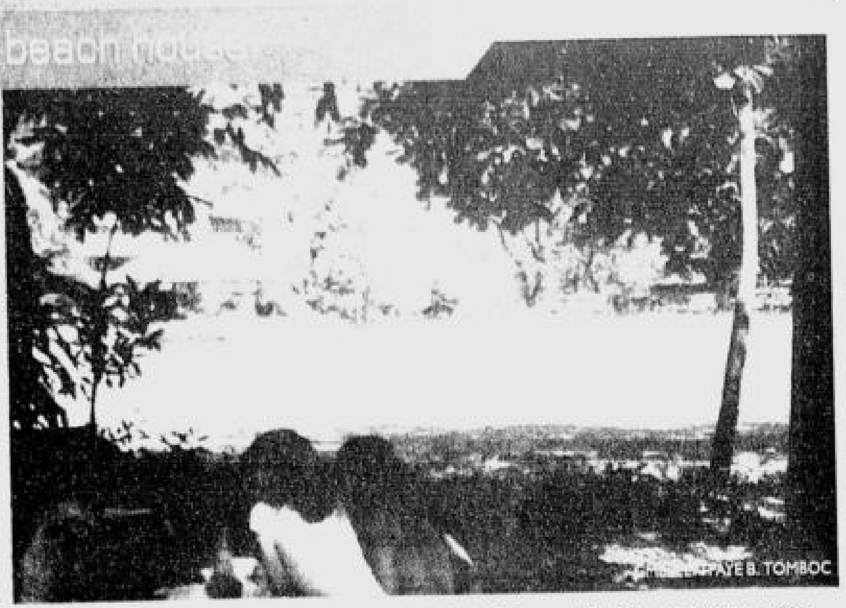
Specialties: Savory crepes like Mushroom Ham, Egg and Cheese and Pork Floss Cheesy Omelette; and sweet crepes such as Caribbean Cruise, Hazelnut Banana Chocolate and Crepes and Cream Delight.
Bonus: A really wide array of flavors, toppings and ice cream flavors!

Damage: Each crepe creation is worth only P95 ***MS***

lugawan island

Location: 45 Timog Ave., Quezon City
Specialties: Great Pinoy comfort food. Must-orders include the house bestseller Pilo-gaw (*lugaw* with a dose of *sotanghon* noodles served in a special pot), Crispy Tokwa't Baboy, Chicharon Aleta (yummy chicharon sliced so thinly that people mistake it for chicken skin), *sago't gulaman* and *leche flan*. There are other kinds of *lugaw* and a wide selection of rice toppings and snacks as well.
Bonus: Lugawan Island's new management seems to have given the place new life—and they're even giving the whole restaurant a makeover. Lugawan Island is open from 11 a.m.-6 a.m., and they deliver to nearby areas. Call 3728844.
Damage: The Pilo-gaw will set you back P85, the basic *lugaw* is P50 with various toppings ranging from P15 (quail eggs) to P65 (*litid*). Chicharon Aleta and Crispy Tokwa't Baboy cost P85 per order. *Sago't gulaman* is P30 and *leche flan* is P45. And yeah, the *pandan* water, which a lot of people love, is free. ***PP***

PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR



GMELEEN FAYE B. TOMBOC

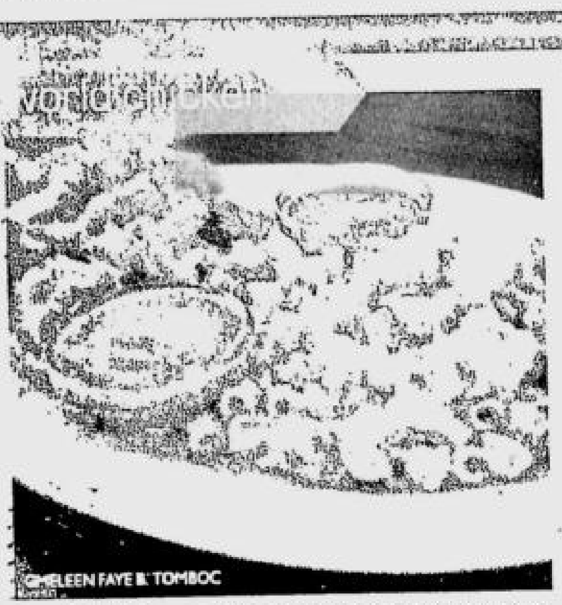
Location: UP Sunken Garden, near the UP Main Library, UP Diliman, Quezon City
Specialties: Cheap barbecue
Bonus: You'll dine under acacia trees with a view of the expansive Sunken Garden. Try Beach House when you want to have a long, leisurely lunch while admiring the scenery and taking in the breeze.
Damage: At P20 for one stick of barbecue, you can afford to order *miswa* soup (P6) and sweetened *saging na saba* (P12). Rice is standard at P6 a cup.
Caveat: It's only open for lunch. Don't come here on a rainy day because most of the tables are outdoors.
GFT

GMELEEN FAYE B. TOMBOE

Location: Mother Ignacia Ave., Quezon City, at the back of ABS-CBN
Specialties: Fresh oysters flown directly from fish ports
Bonus: Bathed in soft light and staffed by uniformed waiters, the place doesn't look inexpensive at all. With its grilled dishes and low-priced beer, it's a cheaper alternative to Gerry's or Dencio's. If you get lucky, you might spot a celebrity or two from ABS-CBN.
Damage: P85 for the sisig (good for two), P60 for Stir-Fried Clams. Add P10 for rice and you're well within your budget.
GFT

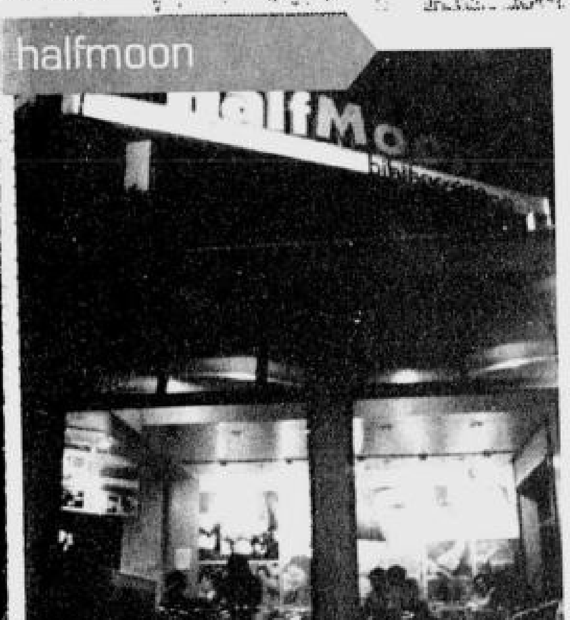
GMELEEN FAYE B. TOMBOC

Location: Creekside Square, Tomas Morato, near the corner of E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City
Specialties: Its P150 steaks, but the grilled and fried meats are also worth the trip.
Bonus: It's not air-conditioned, but the air along this part of Tomas Morato is still fresh enough to make hanging out a breeze.
Damage: P50 for the pork barbecue meal, P60 for charbroiled burger steak, P65 for fried *liempo*
GFT



GMELEEN FAYE B. TOMBOC

Location: Katipunan Avenue (in front of Ateneo), Quezon City
Specialties: Healthy grilled chicken. All orders come with rice or sidings. Confine your selection to orders below P100, just ask for tap water, and you won't blow your budget.
Bonus: If you're not into chicken, try Asiana pasta (P79), a merry mix of fusilli, basil, chives, chicken and oyster sauce. Tacos are P39 a piece. These are very good prices considering the place's soft chairs, warm lighting and cool air-conditioning.
Damage: At P99, the paella de polo is especially recommended. Try the chicken beef mash for P76, or breaded chicken tenders for P94.
GFT



GMELEEN FAYE B. TOMBOC

Location: Tomas Morato, Quezon City (near Virgin Cafe and Friday's)
Specialties: Bibingcrepe, a cross between bibingka and crepe that comes with different fillings: choco, cheese, and/or peanut.
Bonus: You can watch your order being cooked, so everything is piping hot.
Damage: P90 for the Peanut Bibingcrepe, P85 for the Cheese Bibingcrepe. If you want a thinner, crispier version, order the Bibingcrisp for just P55.
GFT

GMELEEN FAYE B. TOMBOC

Location: Quezon Ave, cor. West Ave, Quezon City
Specialties: Cheap Persian food.
Bonus: Prices are so affordable you'll still have money to spare for yoghurt shake (P25). Plus, almost all orders come with rice and grilled giant tomatoes. Don't be daunted by the long line at the entrance because you'll be called in for a table faster than the time it takes you to scan the menu.
Damage: Shell out P45 for Keema, P55 for the Chelo Kebab and P75 for the Special Chelo Kebab.
Caveat: Parking is difficult, but you can rely on trusty "parking attendants."
GFT

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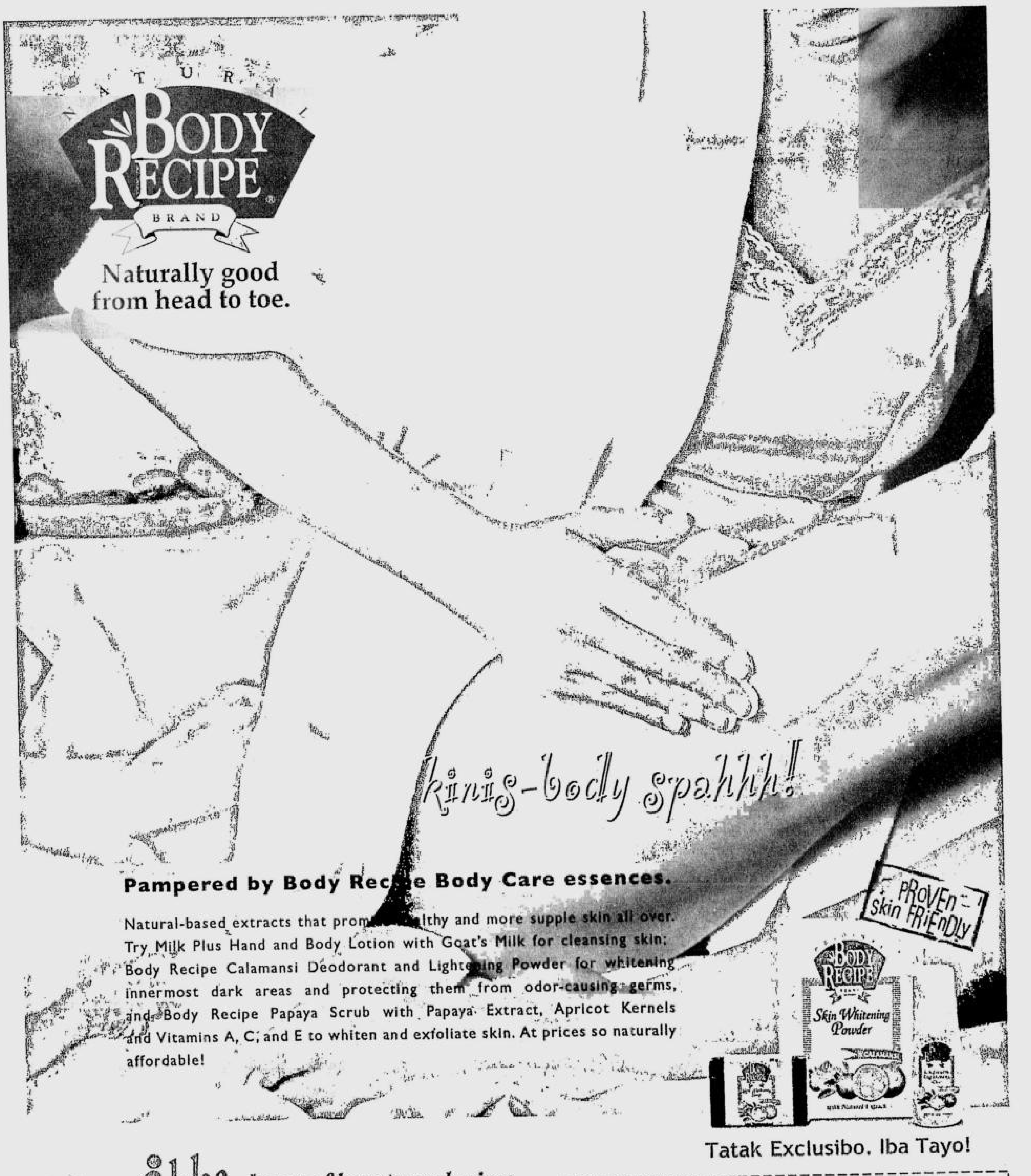
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mang jimmy's

PHOTOS BY GMELEEN FAYE B. TOMBOC

Location: Balara, Quezon City (at the back of Manila Water along Katipunan Avenue)
Specialties: Tapa Mix
Bonus: All orders are good enough for two, and come with a plateful of rice. Plus, you get one free viand for every two orders, so it's best to eat here with the whole gang.
Damage: P100 for *tapa* mix, *sisig* or sizzling squid.
Caveat: Don't expect posh surroundings. It's just an old house converted into a restaurant, with lots of long tables in the garden. *GFT*

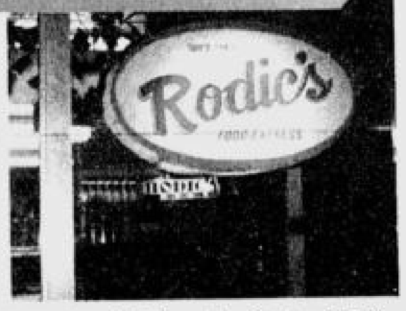
kha's food house

Location: UP Arcade (near the UP Chapel), UP Diliman, Quezon City
Specialties: An extensive selection of Persian dishes, plus lots of vegetarian food
Bonus: Have fun guessing what's in the "That's not what you think" (P65). Rest assured it's not ox brain, though, as Ox Brain with Ground Beef (P55) is a different item on the menu.
Damage: P55 for Safari (rice topped with beef, chicken, squid or vegetables). Steak Kebab is for about the same amount.
Caveat: Choose a table near an electric fan to escape the sweltering heat. *GFT*

box o' rice

Location: 153 B. Gonzales St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Specialties: Wide selection of meals in a box, from Veggie Mongolian to Seafood Alajillo (shrimps and squid rings)
Bonus: It delivers (9286355)
Damage: Regular boxes come at P72 each, but if you're not a very big eater, get the smaller boxes for P52 *GFT*

rodic's food house



Location: UP Shopping Center, UP Diliman
Specialties: All the *silog* versions you can think of, from *tapsilog* to *relleno hiponsilog* to pork barbecue *silog*
Damage: P55 for each *silog* meal
Tip: Save more by getting the breakfast meal (available all day). P30 buys you 1 piece longanisa, 1 fried egg and a heaping of fried rice. *GFT*

ihawOne

Location: Philcoa, Quezon City
Specialties: Pork, chicken and tuna *sisig*
Bonus: The rice is free and unlimited. Split the iced tea in a fishbowl (P49) with two other friends to quench your thirst. Best of all, there's no service charge.
Damage: Spend P79 for chicken *sisig* or chicken teppan, or P89 for the extra large barbecue.
Caveat: Don't expect to come out of IhawOne smelling like roses. Since it's air-conditioned, the smoke from the grills is trapped inside. *GFT*

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Beauty for a song

The satisfaction you get from splurging on cheap yet fun finds is priceless

Lora Gabol

I HAVE THIS HABIT OF KEEPing my money in the highest denominations possible. I say it's because it keeps my cash from "disappearing." Especially these days when we put hardly any value in our P20s, P50s and even our P100s, it's so easy to spend these amounts on items which have no real purpose to us.

This is why it was such a pleasant surprise to discover that there are places where your money can still go a long way. And, an even bigger surprise that, of all places, I found myself marveling at the sheer bargain-haunt potential of beauty counters!

Upon surrounding myself with these way-affordable beauty treats (everything below P100!), I've come to the conclusion that the satisfaction you get from splurging on cheap yet fun finds is just as priceless.

Here are my picks, from a low of P21.75 to a high of P99.75.

Caronia nail polish (P21.75). I rarely get manicures—something about a traumatic first-time experience with bloody hangnails and a TLC-impaired technician just pushed me to learn how to paint my nails on my own.

With Caronia's vast range of nail color, you too will get your much-needed practice. I especially love it in Delicate.

Femme Fresh Makeup Remover and Cleansing Wipes (P29.75). Need a quickie cleanser on those nights when you're just too lazy to head to the sink and wash your face? Reach for these handy face towels and swipe away. Pack one in your bag, too, for emergency spills and stains. You can use them practically anywhere!

Likas Papaya Herbal Soap (P44.75). The first papaya soap in the market is also the one I trust when I need to fix a painful, peeling tan or simply want to brighten my skin all over. Even if you're not a fan of whitening, this soap helps lighten dark spots and even out a botchy complexion.

Careline Eyeshadow Duo (P48). Long-wearing, non-creasing, and has just the right amount of shimmer. Apply with your fingers if you're a makeup newbie, or practice with the sponge-tip applicator it comes with. Natural-look lovers will love it in No. 105, a coffee-beige combo.

Careline Eyeshadow Powder (P48). This loose color powder may seem a tad difficult to handle for cosmetics amateurs, so I suggest using it as a highlighter instead. Dip a small brush and glaze your cheekbones and the bridge of your nose with shade No. 9, Vanilla White, for an ethereal glow.

Bench Fix Hair Gel (P49.75 for 75 g). My favorite bargain since I started styling my hair, this is one steal that every hair product junkie will love!

Ever Bilena Body Butter (P50 for 50 ml). With sumptuous flavors like Mango and Almond, this luxurious body moisturizer deserves every inch of space on your dresser.

Nichido Long-Wearing Eye Pencil (P50). I love that this liner gives a vivid pop of color and doesn't give you raccoon eyes after an hour.

Fashion 21 Lip Protector (P55). I'm not a very big fan of goopy lip balms, so this was right up my alley. No extra shine and definitely no stickiness with this yummy lip-protecting stick. Get it in my fave flavor, Cherry.

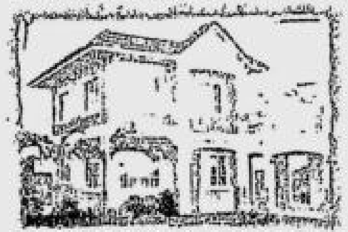
Careline Blush On (P55). I found myself hanging around the Careline counter a little longer when I found their gorgeous array of powder blush. I was hoping they wouldn't be streaky and wouldn't give my cheeks an embarrassing neon flush, and my prayers were answered! I fell in love with the sheer Peach Glow and the edgy Fresh Tomato.

Aido Liquid Eyeliner (P60). For those who wish for a precise, dramatic line, liquid liner is the way to go. But remember, it's all in the brush. This one from Aido passed my test with flying colors.

Vitress Hair Solutions Hair Spa (62.75). It's cheaper than your regular conditioner, but a once-a-week treatment with this deep conditioner keeps your tresses in tip-top shape.

Watson's Relaxing Foot Soak, Foot Exfoliating Scrub and

BEAUTY/D4



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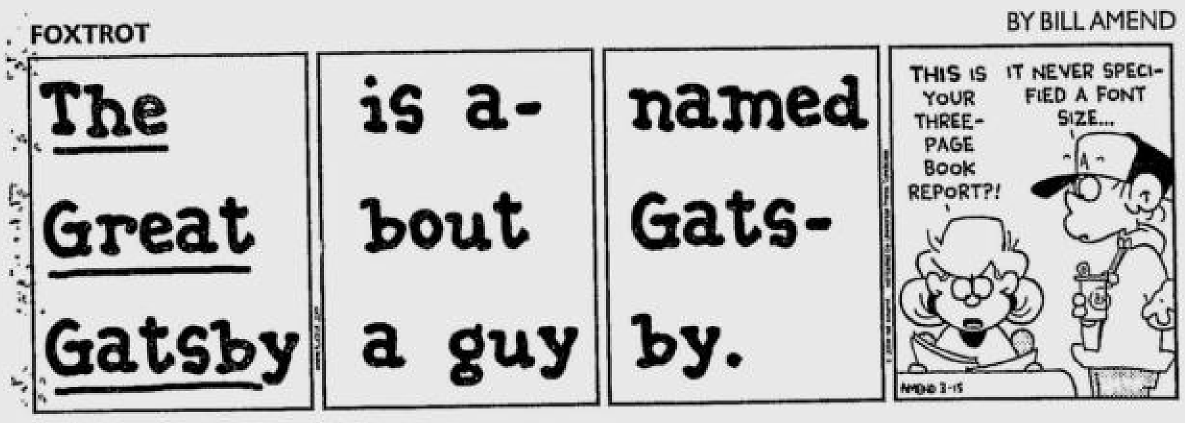
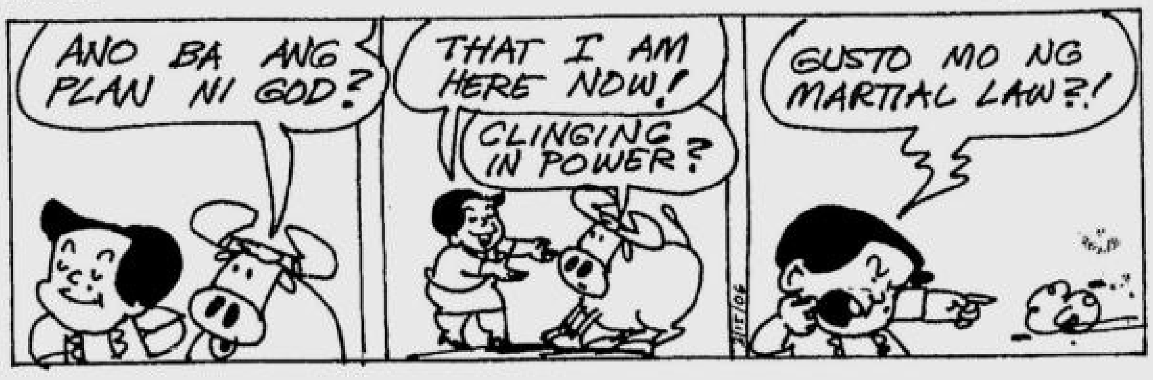
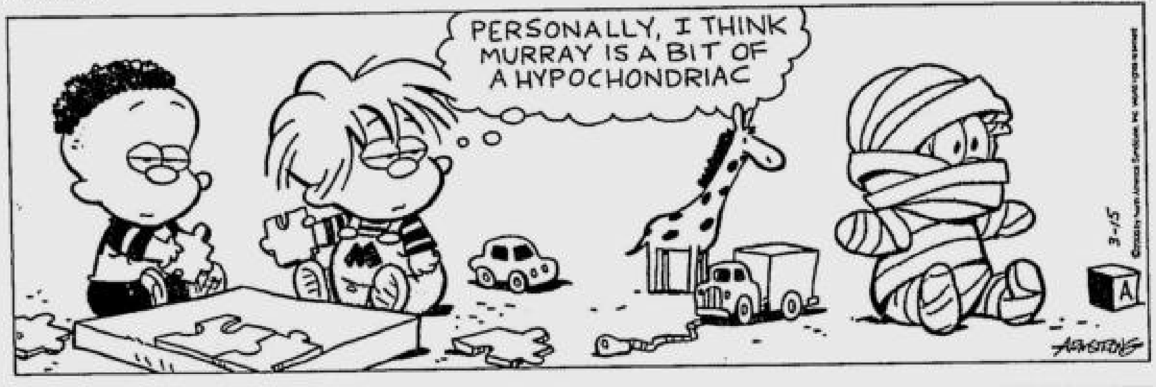
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


The Great Gatsby
is a-bout a guy
named Gats-by.
THIS IS YOUR THREE-PAGE BOOK REPORT?!
IT NEVER SPECIFIED A FONT SIZE...

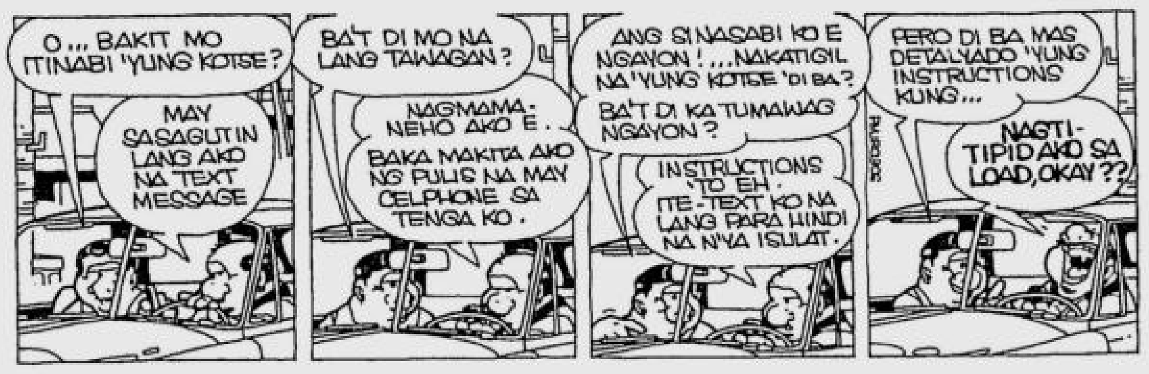
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ANO BA ANG PLAN NI GOD?
THAT I AM HERE NOW!
CLINGING IN POWER?
GUSTO MO NG MARTIAL LAW?!

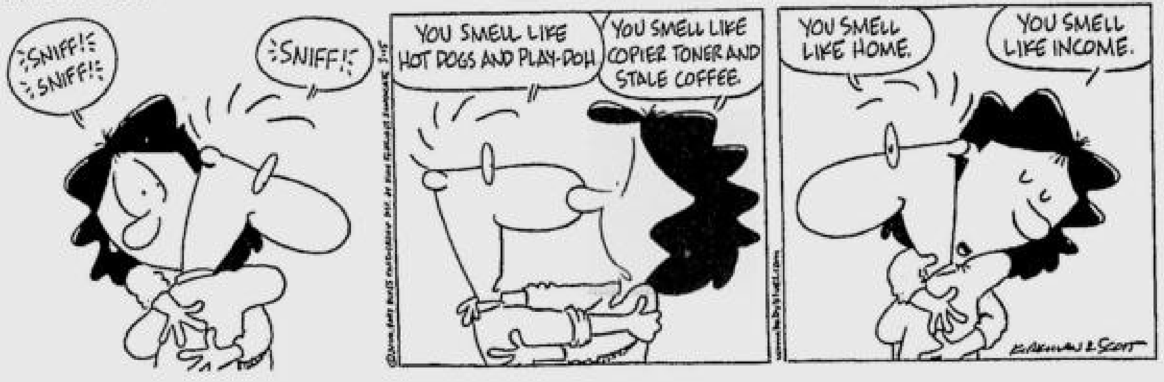
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


PERSONALLY, I THINK MURRAY IS A BIT OF A HYPOCHONDRIAC

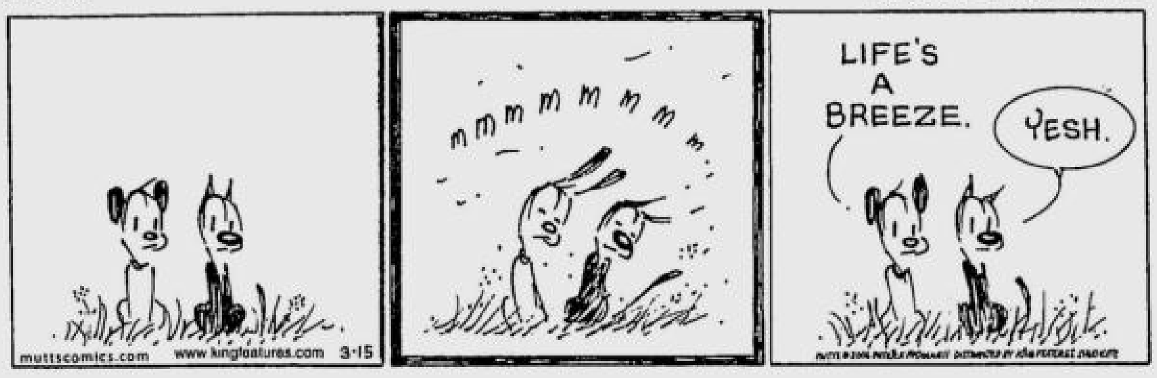
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


O... BAKIT MO ITINABI 'YUNG KOTSE?
MAY SASAGUTIN LANG AKO NA TEXT MESSAGE
BA'T DI MO NA LANG TAWAGAN?
NAGMAMANEHO AKO E.
BAKA MAKITA AKO NG PULIS NA MAY CELPHONE SA TENGA KO.
ANG SINASABI KO E NGAYON!... NAKATIGIL NA 'YUNG KOTSE 'DI BA?
BA'T DI KA TUMAWAG NGAYON?
INSTRUCTIONS 'TO EH. ITE-TEXT KO NA LANG PARA HINDI NA N'YA ISULAT.
PERO DI BA MAS DETALYADO 'YUNG INSTRUCTIONS KUNG...
NAGTITIPID AKO SA LOAD, OKAY??

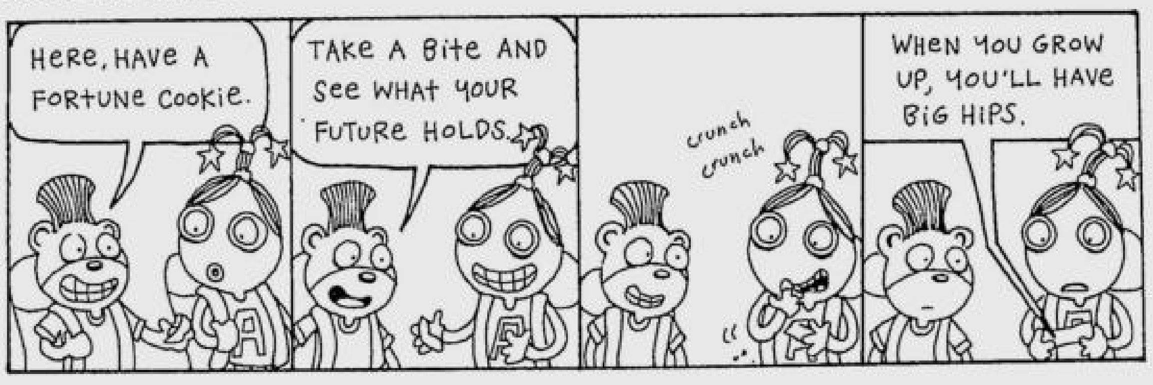
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


SNIFF! SNIFF!
SNIFF!
YOU SMELL LIKE HOT DOGS AND PLAY-DOH.
YOU SMELL LIKE COPIER TONER AND STALE COFFEE.
YOU SMELL LIKE HOME.
YOU SMELL LIKE INCOME.

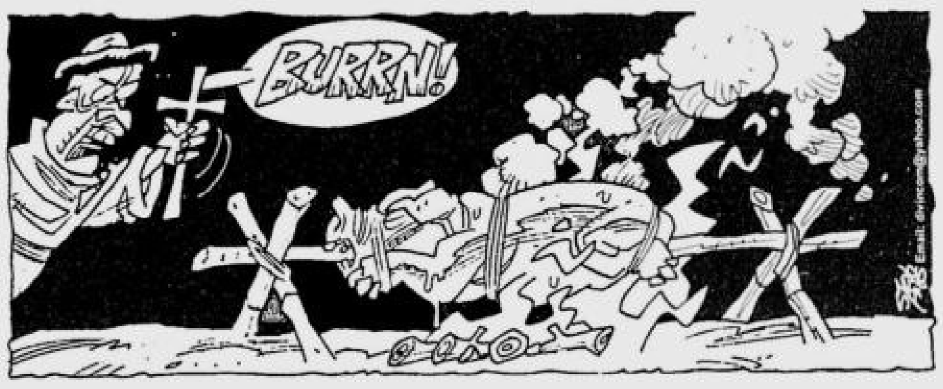
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


mmmmmmmm
LIFE'S A BREEZE.
YESH.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
3-15

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Here, have a fortune cookie.
Take a bite and see what your future holds.
crunch crunch
When you grow up, you'll have big hips.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



THE BURNING AT THE STAKE OF A HERETIC PIG

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a natural leader, with charisma and magnetism! You're also ambitious to succeed. You often play a central role wherever you are; perhaps because you always honor your commitments. Your enthusiasm often takes you into uncharted territory. You enjoy your youth before you settle down. This year can be one of the most powerful, productive years of your life! Get to it!

Birthdate of: Eva Longoria, actress; David Cronenberg, director; Sean Biggerstaff, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't give away the farm today. You're tempted to be very generous because you're sympathetic, but you might not have the full picture about something! Be careful.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You will work very hard today to convince others that your good ideas are trustworthy. Expect some resistance. People want to make sure you know what you're talking about.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You have excellent ideas about how to make improvements at work today. Just be sure they are realistic and not wishful thinking. Check all your facts.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel quite jubilant and optimistic about something! No doubt you have good reason. Nevertheless, make sure you're not going out on a limb. (Self-deception is possible today.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You like to think the best of your friends. It's just who you are. Be careful that you don't overidealize someone today. (Everybody puts his or her pants on one leg at a time, just like you do.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's almost as if your grasp of reality is being tested today. It's OK to believe in yourself; just make sure you have your facts straight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're full of optimism and good moneymaking ideas! In one way, this is a great day for business and commerce. In another way, you could be too confident about something. Use caution.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Expect others to scrutinize or look for faults in what you have to say today. They think what you're proposing is too good to be true. (Hmmm -- is it?)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're full of wonderful, imaginative ideas today! Your ability to illustrate your point is quite amazing. You can really visualize what you want.

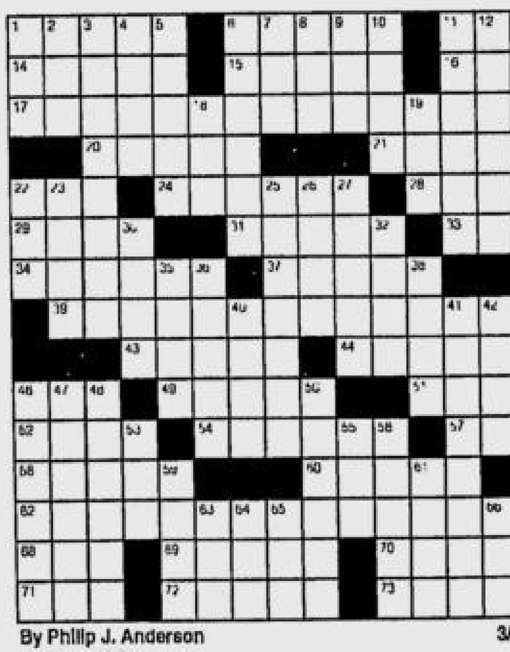
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): In large measure, this is a wonderful day to do business. Nevertheless, there's an element of self-deception present. Make sure you have all your facts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Because you're born 50 years ahead of your time, others often don't understand you. You might have to work to get others to appreciate your suggestions today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is the day to practice generosity to others and show your kind, sympathetic side. Nevertheless, remember that true generosity is giving what is needed. (Don't be naive.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Minneapolis suburb
6 Inexplicit
11 __-de-lance
14 Sub detector
15 Ring in the ocean
16 Old name of Tokyo
17 Memorable Mr.'s
20 Track events
21 Watts or Judd
22 Addams Family cousin
24 Denali's state
28 Fiber source
29 Domestic help
31 Bonn's river
33 Ninny
34 Tartan patterns
37 Jungian soul
39 Memorable Mr.'s
43 Writer Gertrude
44 Value
46 Figures pro
49 Passion
51 Out of __ (discordant)
52 Heavenly headgear?
54 Beliefs
57 Penultimate Greek letter
58 Nimble
60 Caste member
62 Memorable Mr.'s
68 1501
69 Memos
70 In timely fashion
71 Nordic jet letters
72 Publicity ploy
73 Short bit of laughter



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
3/15/06

DOWN
1 Psychic letters
2 Buck's mate
3 Navigation system
4 California valley
5 Tropical palm
6 Poughkeepsie college
7 24-hr. cash source
8 Sticky stuff
9 Einstein's birthplace
10 Flair
11 Felt hat with a brim
12 Swellings
13 "The Thinker" and "The Kiss"
18 Fam. member
19 Seize suddenly
22 Little rascal
23 Fine-grained mineral
25 Limerick's river
26 Benevolent
27 Old-womanish
30 Metal stamping molds
32 Outback runners
35 Info
36 Hagar the Horrible's dog
38 Exploits
40 Adjutant
41 Input data, old-style
42 Urges
45 1101
46 Captivates
47 Buddhist shrine
48 Excuses in court
50 Emcee, again
53 Corrida cheer
55 Diminutive bird
56 Schnoz
59 Sea eagles
61 Copenhagen resident
63 Youngster
64 Actor Erwin
65 Boyz II __
66 Payable now
67 Driving area

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

C	R	A	S	S	■	O	R	E	■	C	E	D	E	S
H	O	S	E	A	■	N	O	B	■	O	L	E	O	S
A	S	W	A	N	■	S	T	R	I	P	I	E	S	T
S	T	A	N	D	U	P	C	O	M	I	C	■	■	■
E	R	R	■	E	N	E	■	■	A	L	I	S	T	S
■	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	G	O	T	H	I	C
■	■	■	E	S	T	■	B	E	E	T	■	O	N	O
E	L	I	E	■	■	T	A	T	■	■	C	O	S	T
N	E	D	■	P	O	N	S	■	W	S	W	■	■	■
T	O	Y	S	I	N	T	H	E	A	T	T	I	C	■
S	I	L	A	G	E	■	■	V	I	A	■	N	H	S
■	■	■	S	O	U	N	D	O	F	M	U	S	I	C
M	A	R	S	U	P	I	A	L	■	P	R	I	M	A
A	S	Y	E	T	■	C	L	V	■	O	G	D	E	N
C	H	E	S	S	■	E	Y	E	■	N	E	E	D	S

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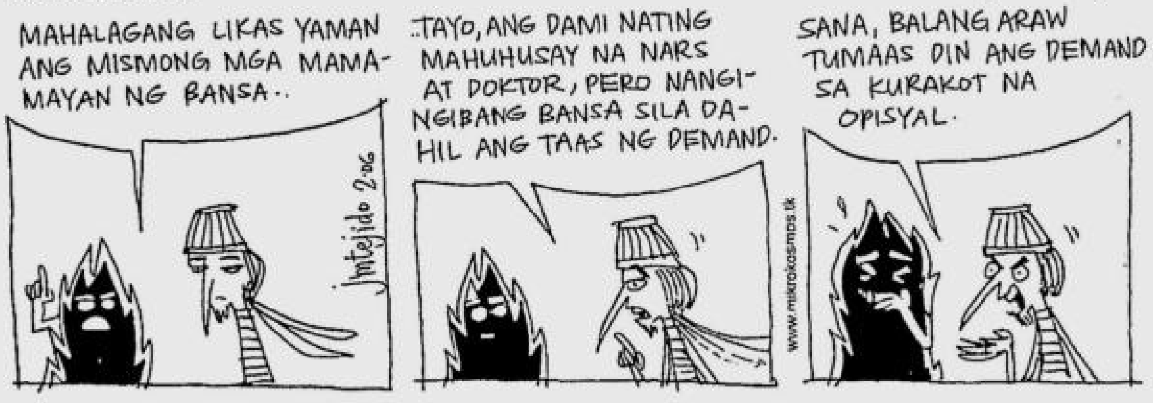
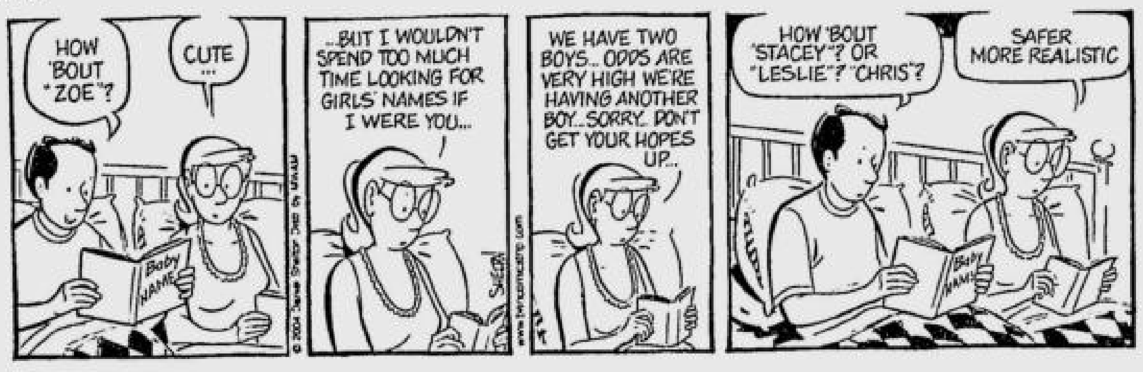
3/15/06

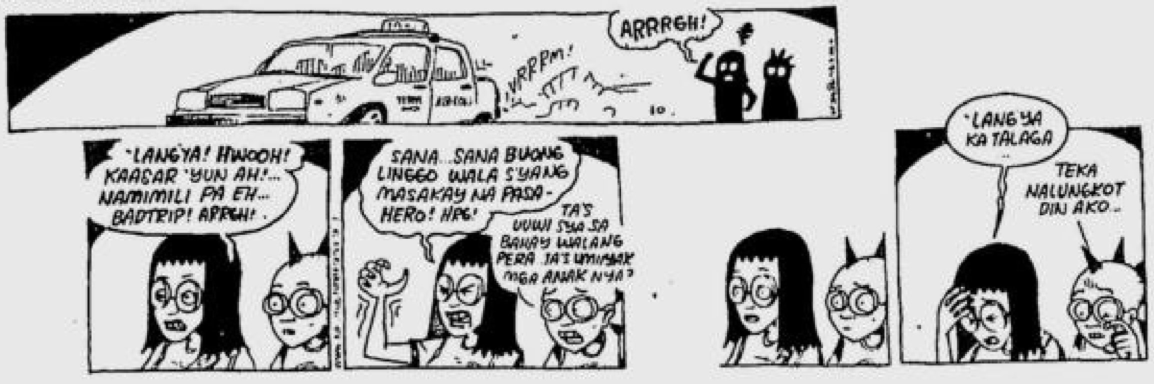
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MAHALAGANG LIKAS YAMAN ANG MISMONG MGA MAMAMAYAN NG BANSA..
TAYO, ANG DAMI NATING MAHUHUSAY NA NARS AT DOKTOR, PERO NANGINGIBANG BANSA SILA DAHIL ANG TAAS NG DEMAND.
SANA, BALANG ARAW TUMAAS DIN ANG DEMAND SA KURAKOT NA OPISYAL.
jmtejido 2.06
www.mikrokosmos.tk

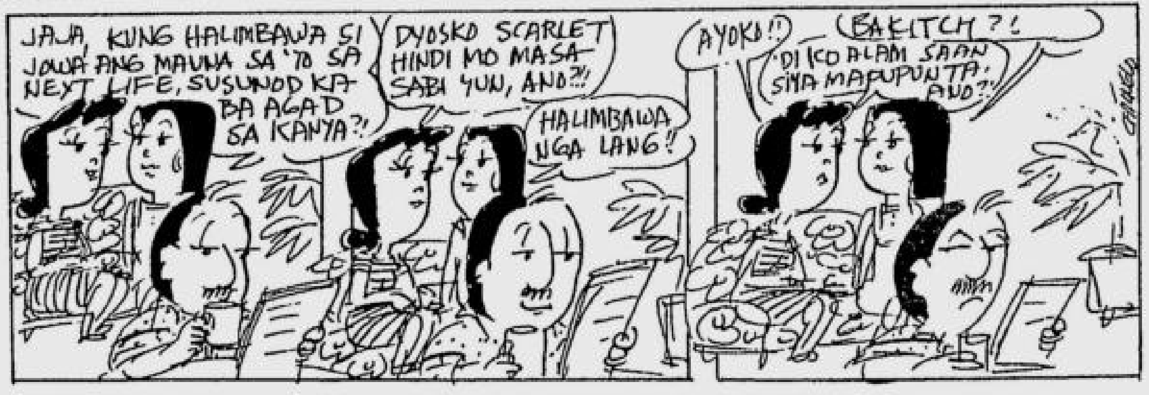
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW 'BOUT "ZOE"?
CUTE ...
...BUT I WOULDN'T SPEND TOO MUCH TIME LOOKING FOR GIRLS' NAMES IF I WERE YOU...
WE HAVE TWO BOYS... ODDS ARE VERY HIGH WE'RE HAVING ANOTHER BOY... SORRY. DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP...
HOW 'BOUT "STACEY"? OR "LESLIE"? "CHRIS"?
SAFER MORE REALISTIC
Baby NAMES

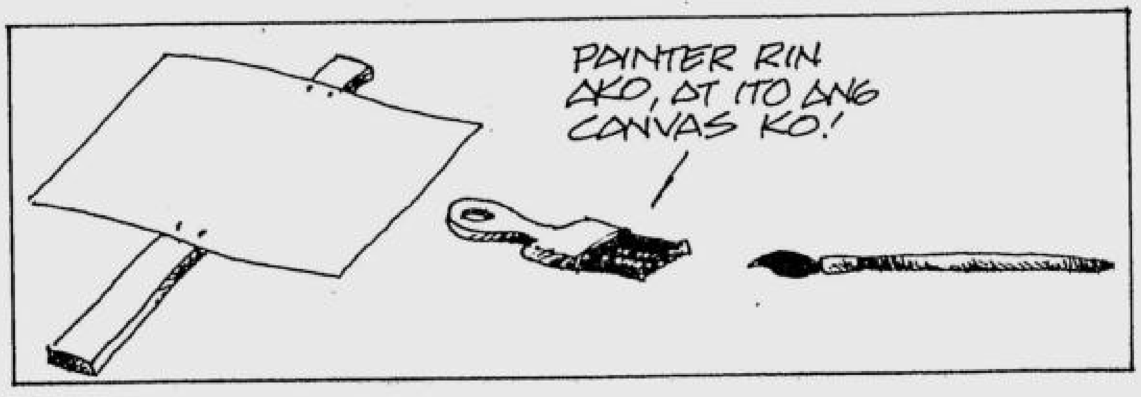
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


ARRRGH!
VRRPM!
'LANGYA! HWOOH! KAASAR 'YUN AH!... NAMIMILI PA EH... BADTRIP! ARRGH!
SANA... SANA BUONG LINGGO WALA S'YANG MASAKAY NA PASAHERO! HPG!
TA'S UUWI S'YA SA BAHAY WALANG PERA TA'S UMIIYAK MGA ANAK NYA?
'LANGYA KA TALAGA ..
TEKA NALUNGKOT DIN AKO..

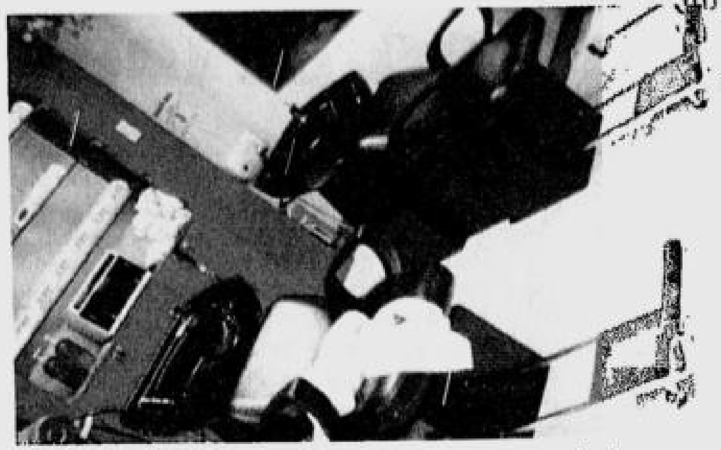
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, KUNG HALIMBAWA SI JOWA ANG MAUNA SA 'TO SA NEXT LIFE, SUSUNOD KA BA AGAD SA KANYA?!
DYOSKO SCARLET HINDI MO MASASABI YUN, ANO?!
HALIMBAWA NGA LANG!
AYOKO!!
BAKITCH?!
'DI KO ALAM SAAN SIYA MAPUPUNTA, ANO?!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PAINTER RIN AKO, AT ITO ANG CANVAS KO!

MY OZZY Osbourne style, a month after my P500 haircut (above); my P99 haircut and Rhona's million-dollar smile (right)



COMFY shampoo area. Be sure to let them know whether you prefer cold or lukewarm water.

INSIDE a Reyes Haircutters salon

'Gandang 99 pesos'

From tip money to the actual haircut

Text and photos by Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

I BELONG TO THAT PERCENTage of Filipinos who curb their essential expenses for the sake of vanity. I can easily part with more than a thousand bucks for skin- and haircare and endure days of having Boy Bawang for lunch.

I spend around P185-P600 for a haircut, plus 25 percent of that amount to give as tip every three months. It's not expensive for those who get haircuts in Manila Peninsula or Rockwell, but it's pricey enough for someone like me who still gets allowance and wishes to look half as pretty as Angelina Jolie instead of looking like Ozzy Osbourne.

When the Bargain Manila issue of 2bU! came up, I decided to take the "below P100 haircut challenge" because, maybe, it was about time I put more money in the bank and lessen my "*pera pang*-pamper" expenses. I tried Reyes Haircutters: Ang Salon ng Bayan.

I'm sure you've seen the ubiquitous neighborhood salon with bright-green signs and the unbelievably affordable prices being advertised on the glass walls. You're also probably familiar with the billboard in Guadalupe or advertisement on the web featuring Reyes Haircutters' "star-looking" customers hopping in a tricycle, jeep or a Ford Expedition after a day at Reyes.

Based on news from the Internet, this "Filipino Family Salon" is one of the top franchise successes in the Philippines. Its "affordable pricing structure, cool place and expert service" have won it numerous awards and customers since the first branch opened in 2001. It has family-friendly promos such as 40-percent discounts for senior citizens and free haircut for babies (bring birth certificate!).

After school, I decided to rough it out all the way by taking the MRT and jeep to the Makati branch on Don Chino Roces Avenue.

It was actually my second time to come back. The first time, I shooed away by the guard of Jaka Center when he thought my companion and I were loitering around the premises when we were just taking pictures for this article. I was also disappointed to find out that the P49.99 haircut was the minimum and you have to pay P99.99 for the senior stylist.

So, to future customers, beware of the rude security guard in the Jaka Makati branch. Also, the prices you see on the glass walls are just the minimum.

Comeback

The second time, the salon was relatively full since it was a Saturday afternoon. I only waited for five minutes for the senior stylist Romy Gomez, aka Rhona, to be available. The shop had some 10 seats, a shampoo area with two seats, comfy-looking foot spa/pedicure area and a massage room.

I'm used to pampering myself silly whenever I'm in a salon by having more than one service, but that day I just opted for the P99.99 haircut, shampoo and blow-dry included. So my hair was washed first. Romy used shampoo and conditioner and, unfortunately, I was too shy to ask what kind of products he used. My hair smelled great and felt bubbly enough.

After washing my hair, Romy asked what I wanted to do with my hair. I asked him what he recommends since I believe the stylist knows best. I just gave him instructions—that it should be low maintenance, long enough for the femme factor and not make my pasty white face look fatter than it is. He suggested bangs even if I was a bit hesitant since my forehead was too small. I just left it all to him and silently prayed he wouldn't mess with my crown.

Romy worked on my hair for less than 20 minutes while he and his colleagues chatted with me.

After cutting my hair, Romy gave me the blow-dry, which was unusual for me. "Yay, less tip money," I thought. After about half an hour, my Reyes Haircutters experience was done.

Of course, Romy and his colleague can't stop gushing how my hair looked fabulous and they even gamely posed when I took pictures.

I still looked the same except for the bangs and layering. I have to wait for the real test or verdict when my friends or Auntie Garnet would see me with my new 'do.

I personally think Reyes Haircutters is a wonderful salon in the sense it caters well to its target market with its spacious salons and affordable prices. I would definitely go back to Reyes in the future.

But for now, I'll stick to my old salon in Glorietta since it's convenient for a mallrat like me. I also want the parlor experience such as having that short scalp massage while having my hair washed or having my back massaged while waiting for the stylist to check my hair, or when the stylist spends an extra 10 minutes to meticulously work on my layers.

So the week of informal reviews came, my Auntie Garnet preferred my hair when it used to be longer and wavy, and my cousin Raffy didn't like my borderline boyish cut.

My friends thought my hair looked the same but were surprised I got a haircut from Reyes Haircutters.

Overall, good job, Romy and company. At least my friends stopped commenting I look like siopao. Next time I'll bring my iPod and my own reading materials.

E-mail tammydavid@gmail.com

SENIOR stylist Rhona in action

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
UPDS
present:
inquirer inter-collegiate debating championship
idealism. involvement. defying conventions.
april 3-7, 2006
university of the philippines, diliman
make debate matter.
5th national asian parliamentary debating tournament
Load CENTRAL
Your One-Stop Reloading Station!
PROMOTING ENGLISH PROFICIENCY
SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

Summer Holidays
available at the infants wear department
We've got it all for you! SM DEPARTMENT STORE
FAIRVIEW · MANILA · PAMPANGA · MANDURRIAO · DELGADO · SAN LAZARO · STA. ROSA

Great reads at reduced prices

By Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondent

THE FEELING OF COMING ACROSS A RARE title for less than a tenth of the original cost is so addicting that many bibliophiles have made a sport out of bargain book shopping. The key is knowing where to look. So booklovers, get ready as 2bU! takes you around the metro in search of discounted reads.

Secondhand book shops

Even before the rise of *ukay-ukay* shops in the metro, secondhand or *segunda-mano* bookstores were already thriving. You can find them inside malls and supermarkets, along the streets of Manila's most populous centers and, if you're lucky, tucked away near your neighborhood.

Booksale, which has been around since the '80s, is one of the more well-known *segunda mano* bookstores. With close to 40 branches scattered across Metro Manila, most of which are conveniently located inside popular shopping centers, it's not hard to stumble upon one.

Booksale is popular among veteran book shoppers because it offers reasonably priced books (usually a third or a fourth of the usual price if brand new) of various genres, from children's books to cookbooks. Books are classified based on their binding, condition and, sometimes, genre. The price of the book (ranging from P5 onwards) is usually dependent on its condition, although it is not unusual to find a title in mint condition for less than P50.

Spotted recently were Laura Esquivel's "Like Water for Chocolate" (P40); John Grisham's "The Brethren" (P80); "A Clockwork Orange" (P15); Jeffrey Archer's "Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less" (P40). See http://www.booksale.com.ph for more information.

Diplomat Book Center, also commonly located inside malls, is a good alternative to Booksale. With close to 10 branches in the metro, Diplomat sells mainly secondhand fiction. Books are arranged according to price, starting at P10.

Books and Mags is another option. Found usually in the aisle of malls such as SM Megamall and Eastwood Cybermall, this store mainly offers bestseller fiction at around P80-100.

If you find yourself riding the MRT, make a beeline to Chapters and Pages, located at the ground floor of the Edsa Central Station Mall. This 4-month-old outlet is already a favorite of many as it offers recently published books—many not yet available in other secondhand bookstores—at less than P100. A popular buy in Chapters and Pages are recent Reader's Digest Condensed Books at P55.

Further along the MRT, near the Cubao Station, are two of Quezon City's best-kept secrets: Dateline Bookshop, located at the Marikina Shoe Export near Alimall, and Remy's Thrift Store. There is an assortment of current and hard-to-find books in both stores to keep any bibliophile busily excavating for hours.

Other outlets of note: the fourth floor of National Bookstore Superbranch in Cubao, Softpages located in the UP Shopping Center in Diliman, and inside Unimart in Greenhills.

A RECTO vendor with his wares

PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MANDIGMA

Recto

For serious bargain book shoppers, a trip to Recto is a must. A section of Recto Avenue near Morayta Avenue is home to booksellers offering not only secondhand textbooks for students, but also contemporary fiction and nonfiction, and even rare titles (such as books published in the 1940s or '50s).

You can also trade in some of your books here, provided you add a fee—P3-5 for Harlequin Romance novels and Tagalog pocketbooks, and P15 for bestsellers. However, for bestsellers, most Recto sellers only trade books by certain authors that they deem popular. Titles range from P10 up, with bestsellers usually between P40-P100. Books by local authors not usually found in other bookstores can also be found here.

Garage sales

Some villages and subdivisions conduct annual community garage sales, usually during the latter half of the year, with residents getting a chance to sell their secondhand wares.

Information about the sale is posted on walls along major roads and highways as well as on online forums, or spread via word of mouth. These sales are a gold mine of cheap, used books as sellers are sometimes more interested in getting rid of them than in making a profit.

In a recent community sale in a Makati village, this writer bought about 50 books from a seller who disposed them for P3 each. The lot included "One-L" by Scott Turow, "Salem's Lot" by Stephen King and various young adult fiction titles.

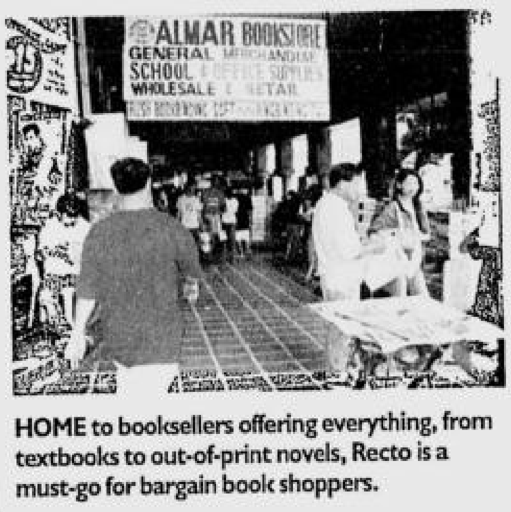
Online forums and auction sites

The classifieds section of online forums contains some of the best book bargains in town. While prices may be a little higher, the titles offered in such forums are often very up-to-date. Femalenetwork.com's forum, Girltalk (http://www.femalenetwork.com/girltalk), has a thriving section called "Book Exchange" devoted to the sale and trade of books. For those looking for popular fiction and nonfiction, especially "chick lit," this is the place to look.

Other forums to visit include Tsinoy.com's Marketplace and Pinoyexchange.com's Classifieds sections.

Online auction sites are also recommended for the tech-savvy bibliophile. Websites to note are Ebay.ph and Avalon.ph.

E-mail the author at melissatelan@yahoo.com



HOME to booksellers offering everything, from textbooks to out-of-print novels, Recto is a must-go for bargain book shoppers.

Beauty for a song

From page D1

Soothing Foot Lotion (P72.50 each). For an at-home foot spa, just load up on these foot finds and bask in their relaxing properties. Follow up with a pretty pedicure.

Ever Bilena Advance Glamour Shine Gloss (P75). This gloss is non-sticky and free of that annoying "fragrance." Get it in Shade No. 5 for a pretty peach pucker.

Watson's Facial Masks (P79.75). Choose Rose for moisturizing, Arbutin for Whitening and Chamomile for Nourishing, and give your complexion an instant boost.

Aido Lip Gloss (P85). I loved the sexy nude of Shade No. 5—the perfect complement for dark, sexy, smoky eyes.

Beauty Formulas Toning Body Cream (P89). Need to firm those jiggle thighs and that tummy? Add more exercise to your regimen, and help the process along with this moisturizing and firming body treatment.

Fashion 21 Baby Cheek (P95). I love this ingenious cream blush! Easy to blend and gives the perfect doll-like flush! Fair skin looks best in the pink shade, while tawnier complexions work well with orange.

Bath and Body Formula Moisturizing Body Scrub (P99). Get smooth all over with a scrub you can use in the shower. Make sure you concentrate on your knees and elbows.

Watsons Designing Spray (P99). Finish off any 'do with this shine-boosting spray that also gives a bit of hold to make sure every strand of hair is in place.

Mistine Double Foam Whitening (P99.75). Whitening junkies, add this moisturizing facial foam to your regimen! Natural extracts not only clean skin, but brighten dull and dry complexions as well.

All products available at Watson's, Robinsons Department Stores and SM Health and Beauty.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com

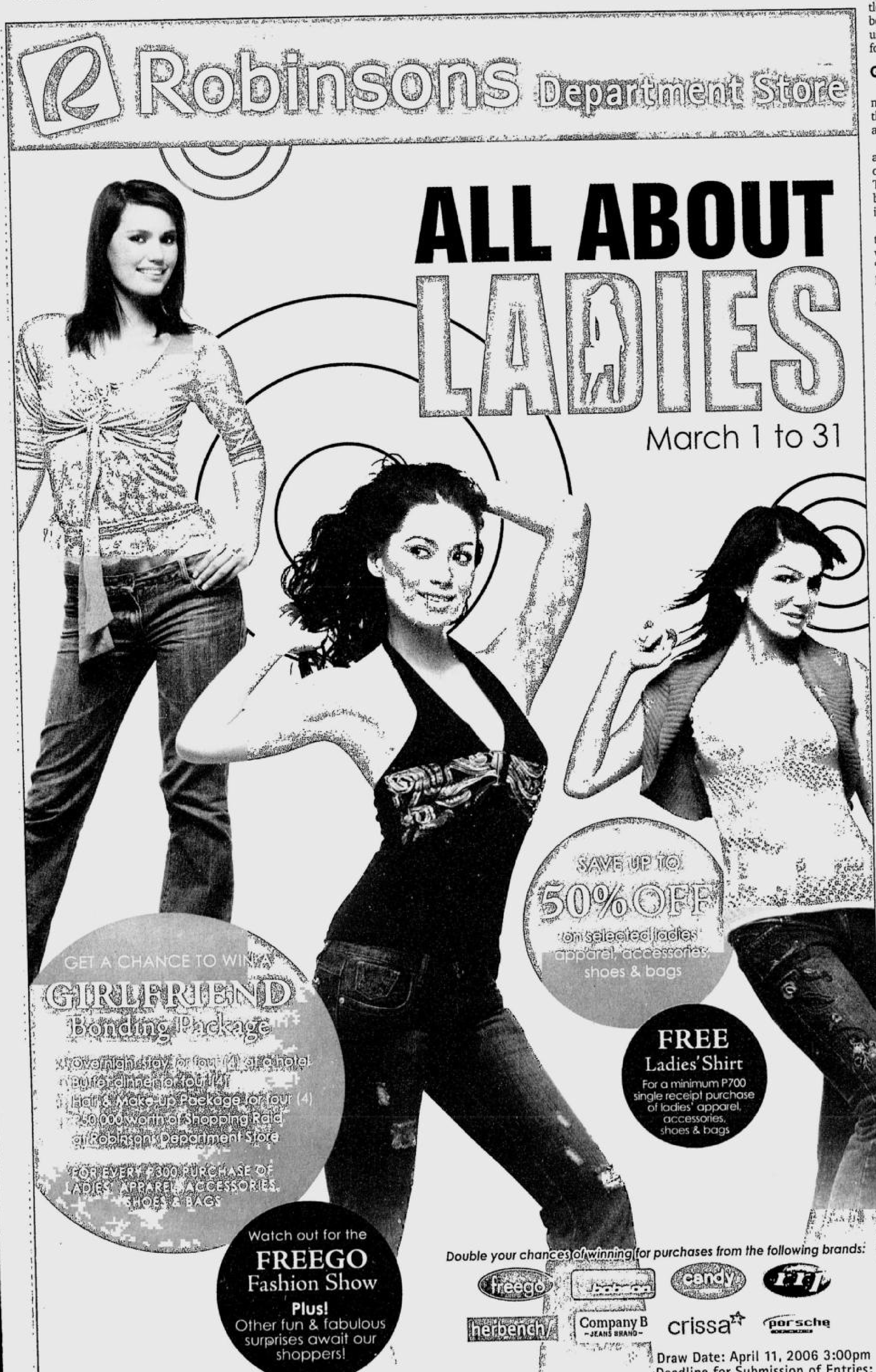

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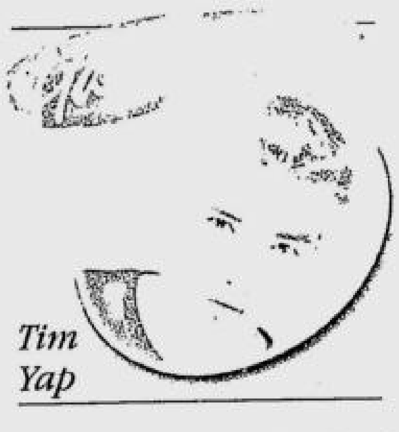
ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

You're a cheapskate, so what?



Tim Yap

"BUDGET" HAS NEVER been one of my favorite words. But if there's one thing my colleague **Pam Pastor** has been able to teach me via her countless forays into *ukay-ukay* and her relentless pursuit of the price-less, it is to appreciate and accept the fact that the best things in life need not be expensive to be enjoyed.

So when she gave me this assignment to write about money-challenged party peeps, I took it as an exciting adventure since we are fully aware of the elitist tag that is attached on our foreheads. "Pro-rich! Pro-rich!" I can hear the rallyists screaming. I am not pro-rich nor pro-poor. I'm just pro, period.

Yes, the people you see on my space often consists of guys and dolls born with the proverbial platinum flask plus daddy's plastic, but there is a big majority of people who have to put their accounting skills to the test every time they shell out for their party favors. It is for them that I write this column.

Eight tips for the budget-conscious partyphile

I am also a *kuripot* at heart. I do know how it feels when you just want to grab that drink off your friend's grasp and say, "*pa*-sip!"

I have always advocated that having fun is not dependent on how much you blow, but on how much you can squeeze out of a moment. Let's party!

For P100, you can...

Okay, let's say you have P100. Honestly, that's not even enough to get you through the door, babe. Though if you're charming enough, you may be able to blab your way through the bouncer and door bitch—if you're lucky.

But when you surf through your wallet and see tons of bills that are not exactly pesos or dollars (more like cell-phone bills, credit-card bills, among other bills), what do you do? Well, there are still a lot of ways to add bang to your boohoo buck. Just like any exercise, it is always important to... stretch.

Now let's go back to your violet currency. For 10 thousand... centavos, there's Persian Kebab in Tomas Morato, a secret after-party spot among party foodies. Your P100 can give you a rice meal, with a kebab and a yoghurt shake, all in!

Watering Hole in front of Shangri-La Edsa has really low-priced drinks. One time I saw P10 beer promo! Plus you'll see **Dolly Anne Carvajal** there. Maybe you can ask her about that blind item you read on "Dollywood."

If you don't want to leave the confines of Greenbelt, but don't have enough for a Nuvo night-out, there's always McDonald's! Its Greenbelt location is beside all the posh resto-bars. So, when a friend calls you on your mobile phone and asks where you are, just say, "*Nasa* Greenbelt *ako, noh*!" and make the manager pump the music a little higher for a more clubby effect.

Open bar-hopping

Another *wais* friend suggested something for the cash-strapped. Invade all open-bar parties! Every bar that throws "group birthday bashes" uses that age-old tactic to lure party folks to come early and get drunk.

These days, though, no one comes early, so the better for you to bumble up on the booze. There's at least one every week, if you know where to look. As soon as it's cash bar, just look at your watch, feign a slight yawn and play busy, saying, "Oh my, I have an early appointment tomorrow *pala*!" Then head off to the next open-bar party.

If all else fails, here are eight more used and abused ideas you can tweak to reach that peak.

1. Throw a theme party, Rated K style.

"K" here stands for "*kuripot*." From D-I-Y, let's now move on to B-Y-O. That's "bring-your-own." From food to drinks to gifts, tell your guests it's all potluck, so you end up not having to shell out anything except your space.

Add a very creative theme, like "Guess who's coming to dinner?" and tell your friends to dress up as another person in the group. It's so much fun! My friend **Tina Tinio** threw one for her birthday and it was a great night filled with hilarious impersonations.

2. Come to a party incognito.

Cosmopolitan's fun and fearless **Ianne Evangelista** threw an "incognito" party that assigned her close friends to be secret agents, resulting in a wig out and costume session—lol! The cheap way to do that without spending on dinner and drinks is to gatecrash (beggars can't be choosers!). I see so many of these people in all the parties I throw that they have become party friends of mine already. If you are one of these gatecrashers, just be friendly to all, and don't horde on the giveaways. There's a head count, you know.

3. Statement tee party

Shu Uemura chief make-up artist **Xeng Zulueta** threw one for her natal day celebration that had everyone dressed down (for a change) but boozed up. The spendthrift way of doing this is again, BYO-P (bring your own poison) and just buy a shirt (some are less than P100. Or just get a plain old one from your closet, use Surf detergent, and *voila*! *Wais ka*!). Write down on your shirt, "Will do anything for a drink." Just be careful of the consequences.

4. "PBB" Party night!

I hope everyone reading this has a TV set (or access to one). Spend the night watching the evening's telecast of "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Edition" and just buy Nova Chips (P100 will get you four bags) and ice-cold water. With these characters, who needs booze?

If "PBB" isn't your thang, then just tune in to my show "MTV Bling" (shameless plug right here—Tuesdays, at 11 p.m., with replays on Thursdays at 8 p.m., and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.), on MTV, where else? I have a couple of surprises in store every week.

5. Go al fresco at your *suking tindahan* (neigborhood store).

It's really expensive to go to the hottest, most chi-chi spot in town. But as I say, it's not the place but the company. So gather your most bling buddies and take them on a trip to your *suking tindahan* which sells beverages for less than P12. If you're short on budget, you can even make *pa-lista*! (You can't do this in Rockwell, though.) And then, altogether sing, "Who are the people in your neighborhood, in your neighborhood..."

6. Extra Joss with Red Bull

We all know these energy drinks can extend one's trip, so just get a buddy pack of these drinks, mix them a bit, get someone else's iPod speakers and dance like you're the Energizer bunny. This doubles as a good cardio workout. While you're at it, drink from a baby bottle or *tsupon*, or with a straw. I heard it makes you tipsy faster.

7. Go and check out cheap store stuff.

There are bottles of wine that retail for P100, really. Buy a bottle and share it with friends, then charge them for it (of course you have to inform them first). There's always *gin-pom* (gin-pomelo—good for five people), too! In no time, you'll be opening your own bar. Want champagne? Buy white wine and put Alka Seltzer, which will give you that fizz but no hangover the next day!

8. Go "hole-in-the-wall" hopping.

Every area has one. You just have to really look around. The Fort has Chamba Juice, which sells spiked juice for less than a hundred. Just learn how to nurse your drink by being really into nice, long conversations. It's only when you're with boring peeps that you realize you've finished your drink in five seconds. Savor it, *pa*-sip-sip *lang*.

We do live in a country where most everyone has champagne wishes, caviar dreams, but with a beer budget. But if you're wise enough, you can live by what a telecom giant swears by. "*Yan ang galing*, without overspending!"

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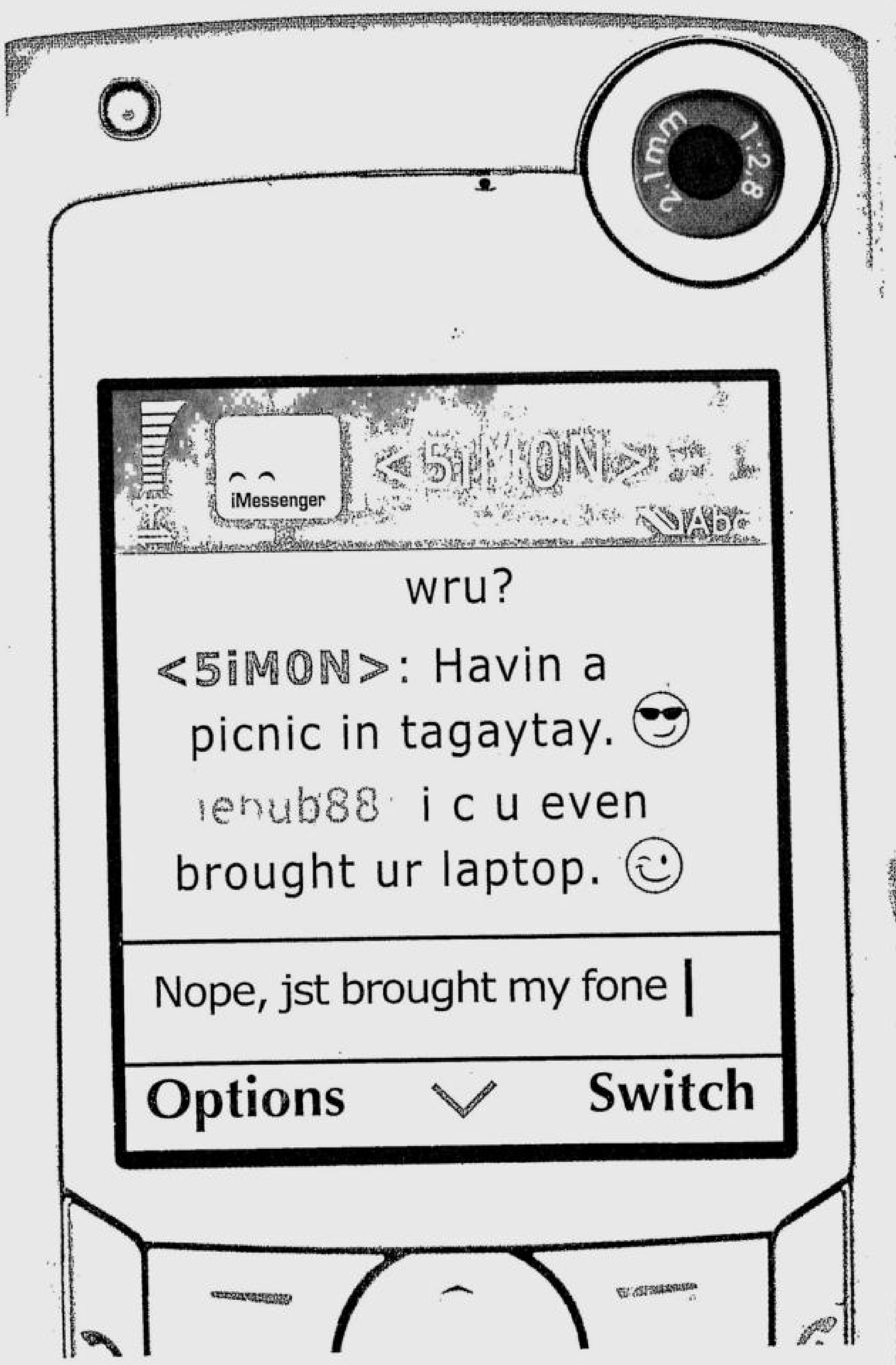

wru?
<5iMON>: Havin a picnic in tagaytay.
ienub88 i c u even brought ur laptop.
Nope, jst brought my fone

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Everything Important is Under the Sun

The 100-peso date challenge

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

EEYA
EE!!
Steph B.

THE ACTIVITY: A DATE. THE BUDGET: a hundred pesos. Now that's what I call a challenge, since a purple bill nowadays can purchase only so much for just one person. Imagine how much less it can fetch two people. And to think that you need to make a big impression on your date!

Guys, be creative!

No need to worry, though. For cash-strapped guys aiming to give their dates a memorable experience without spending too much dough, here are some tips.

Food. Eating street food (fish balls, *kikiam*, *balut*, *penoy*, scramble, etc.)—definitely cheap—can fill you up without draining your funds. And it's a nice way to find out how "street" or annoying your girl can get.

The mall, too, is a perfect place to go for casual dates. Those little kiosks are your savior, as there are lots to choose from: light snacks (Odd Balls, Jamaican Patties, waffles and Subway cookies, P40 for 3 pieces), cold desserts (Snowpy ice cream for less than P10, iPop popsicles, Thumbs Up miniature ice cream and fruit shakes) and even heavy-enough meals (Rice in a Box).

Activity. Once again, the mall is the great equalizer. Unleash your inner kid and head to the gaming stations. Splurge on tokens and go crazy with the joystick. Or go wall climbing or ice skating (SM gives out coupons sometimes!). There are also countless videoke rooms where you and your date can sing love songs for each other.

Or how about dashing to the park, the playground and other spots open to the public, or to zoos and museums that are cheap or at least offer discounts?

Parting gift. It's a great idea to buy your date a special something to cap the night off. Simple tokens include a bag of candies or a FotoMe pic to remind you of your date. Then again, you can just scribble her something sweet on a piece of tissue paper. Forget about spending and just get creative.

> A truly great date should be able to appreciate your efforts, not your expenses

Girls, take charge!

By Gmeleen Faye B. Tomboc
2bU! Correspondent

HERE'S THE PRACTICAL GIRL'S GUIDE TO taking your guy out on a date for one hundred bucks or less.

1. Go for the tried-and-tested classic formula: *isaw* + fish balls + *buko* juice = good conversation.

Shell out: around P100. Don't order squid balls because they cost P2.50 each.

Variation: Challenge him to see who can eat more cones of dirty ice cream or drink more glasses of *taho* in five minutes.

2. Eating out at any restaurant is out of the question. Even if you just order onion soup and ask for tap water, the service charge, municipal taxes and VAT will easily bloat your bill to more than a hundred.

To avoid unwanted expenses and the equally unwanted traffic, invite him over to your house and surprise him with a home-cooked meal.

Shell out: P30 for spaghetti noodles, P20 for a pack of spaghetti sauce, P30 for a bar of cheese, and P20 for a can of corned beef or a few pieces of hotdogs

Caution: If you don't really know how to cook, follow the recipe religiously. If all else fails, ask your mom for help.

3. Remember how you forced him to sit through "Princess Diaries 2" even though he was dying to watch a Vin Diesel flick? Hop over to ACA Video and borrow a DVD of an action or horror movie you know he has always wanted to watch.

Shell out: around P35 for each DVD and P50 for 3 VCDs

Variation: Check your TV guide if there are any good flicks on Cinemax or HBO, or borrow a DVD from a friend with an extensive collection.

4. Make a mixed CD or tape of your favorite tunes, or of songs that remind you of each other.

Shell out: P6 for each CD-R from CD-R King

If you're in the mood, make a Powerpoint presentation (yes, the same program you use for reporting in class) of your pictures together. Plug in a microphone, add some voice-overs, and you'll have a "talking" photo album of your times together.

5. If you have a fondue pot, buy two bars of Toblerone and a bag of marshmallow. Enjoy your chocolate feast!

Shell out: P38 for each Toblerone bar, and P20 for a big bag of marshmallows

6. Head to a high point in town (like Antipolo or Tops in Cebu). Bring along two cups of hot chocolate from a Milo vending machine to sip along while you enjoy the twinkling lights below. Or take a leisurely stroll along Baywalk Boulevard, then plop down on a bench to enjoy the famous sunset.

Shell out: P24 for two cups of Hot Milo

7. Grab your brother's basketball and head to any of the courts scattered around your neighborhood. On your way, stop by a supermarket and buy two bottles of Gatorade. Make it a half-court game, without calling any fouls. If he's a good player, vary the scoring. Every point you get is equivalent to three points.

Shell out: P25 for each bottle of Gatorade

Variation: Head to an open field (like the UP Sunken Garden) and play a game of Frisbee.

8. Belt out your favorite tunes with a Magic Sing. If you don't have one, download a karaoke player from www.vanbasco.com, and choose from the thousands of songs at www.freekaraoke.com.

Shell out: nothing.

9. Raid your closet for those old board games you haven't seen in years. Play Scrabble, Pictionary, or Monopoly. Or just get a deck of cards for a game of good old "pusoy dos."

Shell out: nothing

A bonus: Your date may not know it, but you'll learn a lot about how he thinks from the way he plays.

10. Hold a garage sale at your house. Ask him to raid his closet for old clothes, clean out your own and your parents' closets, and make a giant sign announcing your garage sale. Hand out flyers at your church or at your neighborhood supermarket to spread the word. You'll both have a field day pricing wares and haggling with your buyers for the best deals. Best of all, you get to earn money so your next date need not be limited to P100.

Shell out: a couple of pesos to make a giant sign on Manila paper, and about P20 to photocopy flyers

11. Buy lollipops or your favorite childhood candy (like Tootsie Roll) from a *sari-sari* store. Hang out at a school or neighborhood playground. Go in the evening when the real kids are at home, so you have the swings and the see-saws all to yourselves.

Shell out: P20 on assorted candies

12. Check out the music department of your local university if there are upcoming recitals of graduating students. These are usually open to the public. Never mind if you don't know the artist. You might just witness the debut of the next musical star.

Shell out: nothing

Bonus: On some recitals, cocktails are held afterward.

Variation: If you're both interested in a certain topic, say, human rights, attend lectures on these. Not only will you learn more about your interests, you also spend time together productively. And, who knows, light snacks may be served.

13. Check out which organizations or fraternities on campus will be celebrating their anniversaries soon, when these groups invite their friends to a free lunch or "pakain." Ask your friends to tip you off when and where these celebrations would be.

14. With a digital or phone camera, spend an entire day walking through a park. Take photos of the scenery—trees, families having a picnic, children on bikes or rollerblades. Take shots of each other in serious or goofy poses, and ask a roving security guard to take pictures of the two of you together. Make a collage of all your photos and use it as your screensaver.

Shell out: nothing

15. Go to a department store and challenge yourselves to spend P50 each buying things that remind you of the other. Agree to meet up after an hour to compare your purchases.

Ideas include a photo album for him as a sign that you're looking forward to spending more memorable moments together, or a chocolate bar for you because you're so sweet.

Shell out: P100

16. Take him along to a friend's party. That way, you can spend time with your friends, too, and in turn, your friends can finally "rate" him. Be sure to ask if it's OK to bring a guest, and brief all your buddies on what topics to avoid, like your big crush on his best friend.

Shell out: nothing

17. If you're both followers of "Pinoy Big Brother," join the crowd outside the house on eviction night.

Shell out: a couple of pesos to text in your votes. Resist the temptation to make a giant sign proclaiming your infatuation for your favorite housemate, lest the camera focus in on you.

18. Check out www.asiatravel.com/philfestival or www.lakbaypilipinas.com for a festival near you. If you live in Davao, there's the Sugbahan Festival featuring grilled treats this month. For shoe lovers, there's a Footwear Festival in Liliw, Laguna, in April. Admission is free to these festivals, and native delicacies and products are usually sold at discounted prices.

Shell out: nothing

Variation: Take him along to a friend or relative's fiesta celebration.

19. Be culture vultures. Check out www.clickthecity.com for the latest art exhibits. Even if you're both not into art, you'll learn a lot about art from viewing all these masterpieces. Who knows, one of you might even be inspired to go into photography or sculpture. Popular venues include CCP and the UP Vargas Museum.

Shell out: Nothing. Admission is usually free to art exhibits.

Variation: Admire the paintings at art galleries in malls.

20. When you've been sufficiently inspired by all that culture, take a sketchpad to a neighborhood park and draw the view. You don't need talent. It's even better if you're both not artistic so you'll have a grand time laughing at your own works.

Shell out: nothing. Just take several pieces of bond paper and staple them together to make your own sketch pad.

Variation: Bring along your younger sister's watercolor or craypas set to add color to your masterpieces.

Cheap star thrills

Find out how celebrities are just like you and me—sometimes

Text and photos
by Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

SURE, THEY EARN BIG BUCKS JUST by pouting for the cam or crying fake tears, but sometimes, what satisfies these celebrities is something that won't go over a hundred pesos. Find out how stars are just like you and me—sometimes.

A McChicken meal or BK chicken sandwich meal! **–Bubbles Paraiso**

In Timezone, buy a card, you're happy. We have our little ways of staying positive. *Kung mag*-video arcade *ka sa* Timezone, you don't think about things like what's happening to our country. **–Chinggay Andrada**

A meal deal at McDonald's. I love McDonald's. **–Geoff Rodriguez**

A *dibidi* (DVD as pronounced by the guys selling them). **–Hans Montenegro**

Chewing gum. **–Luke Jickain**

P30 Esprit cardigan in Baguio's *ukay-ukay*. **–Maybelyn dela Cruz**

Nice cheap accessories. **–Michelle Quizon**

Puyat na puyat ako galing taping one time. *Sakit ng katawan ko, nasa* mall *ako, pumunta ako sa barbero para i*-massage *ako*, best buy *'yon*. **–Paolo Paraiso**

A shot glass. I have a shot glass collection. I was able to get a nice one for less than a hundred bucks. **–Paolo Trillo**

Chicken, a cup of rice and a drink. **–Rafael Rossell**

DVD! Or PS2 game. **–Sid Lucero**

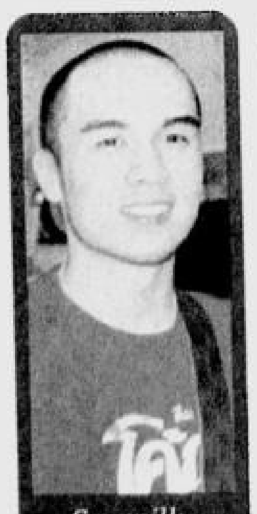
A rose. **–William Martinez**

Food! Anything! It can be candy, pica pica, a delicious double cheeseburger, dim sum or Japanese. Anything! –Aliya Parcs

Credit for the video game, the arcade. –Bobby Andrews

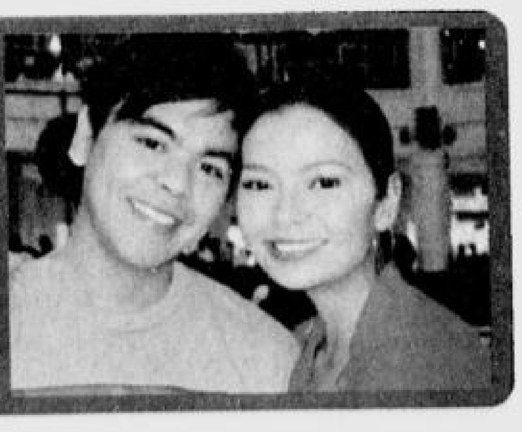
I love the all-natural soaps from Ilog Maria Bee Farm in Tagaytay. I use the milk and honey during the day and lavender at night. The soaps cost around P60 per bar, if I'm not mistaken. –Angel Jacob

Probably a really nice top in SM or in some department store because you can find something really nice there. I have a lot of clothes from there. –Patty Laurel



Soy milk. –Juddha Paolo

A really, really cold bottle of water. –Mylene Dizon



An original retro Balenciaga shirt that cost P80 from Baguio ukay-ukay. –JM Rodriguez

To me, grooming the eyebrows can be as important as combing your hair. They frame your eyes and create an expression for the entire face. Bench clear lash and brow gel is a staple in my beauty kit. –Rissa Samson

Chocnut ice cream stick. –Nicole Hernandez

Health Beauty

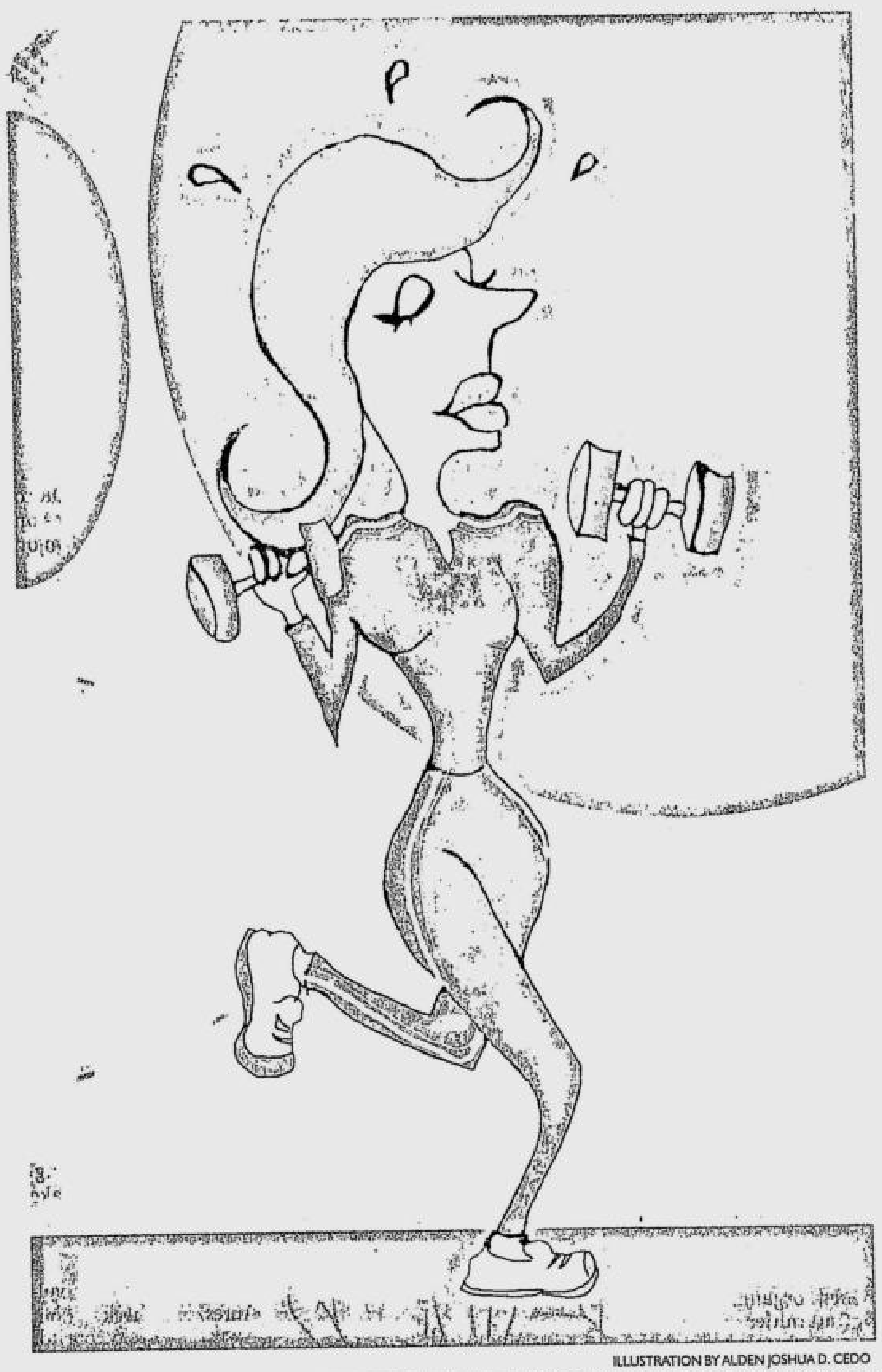


ILLUSTRATION BY ALDEN JOSHUA D. CEDO

EVERYONE WANTS TO BE healthy and beautiful. Well, some people say beauty is only skin deep. This is not true. Real beauty comes from within. In order for you to be beautiful on the outside you have to treat yourself right on the inside. You, truly, are what you eat. Thus, if you eat junk all the time - as opposed to a good diet, with plenty of vegetables, and fruits - your body and complexion will show it. You need your health as well as your cosmetics, your health being first and foremost on your agenda for looking good. Then, your mirror and your makeup won't have that much work. Makeup is not supposed to be a fix all, plastic surgery cure for the bad diet skin uglies. It is only used to enhance the beauty that you already have. Your glow comes from within. That is why, for years, doctors, as well as our moms have always told us to get plenty of rest and exercise. Drink lots of liquids, eat all the right things, veggies and fruits. Chips and a candy bars just doesn't cut it for lunch. You can't eat like that and maintain a healthy cholesterol count. It's just not going to happen. You can't have beautiful hair and nails by eating junk and being a couch potato. Thus, all of these things must be done for you and your body as well as your mind. A healthy body and a healthy mind, it all works together for your inner beauty to shine outward. So, you don't get the beauty if you don't clean up what you are doing to your body on the inside. Ask any beauty technician and they will tell you: You can't have the beauty without the health to back it up! *From the website suite101.com.*

Pinoys get educated on healthy lifestyle for a healthy heart

IT MAY SOUND LIKE A CLICHÉ BUT AN ounce of prevention is indeed better than cure when it comes to dealing with heart diseases. Several factors trigger a heart disease and unfortunately some of these are irreversible, heredity and age being some. While there is nothing much one can do to change this, education on better health and lifestyle may instead be advocated to avoid suffering a heart ailment.

In a survey on the health of Filipinos conducted by the Philippine Heart Association (PHA), it was found that the cardiovascular diseases claim the top spot as one of the leading causes of death, with hypertension as one of the top triggers. What's more alarming about this is that the trend does not decline and the victims have become younger.

According to Ma. Teresa Abola, chair of the advocacy Committee and PHA director, "About 17 percent of Filipinos who are 20 years old and above are hypertensive; maintaining an unhealthy lifestyle, and other risk factors like smoking, diabetes, high cholesterol blood levels, obesity and inactivity even contribute to the increased risk for heart attack and stroke. And despite various awareness campaigns that promote heart health, there seems to be no significant impact since the prevalence of such risk factors over the past five years has not significantly decreased."

Dr. Abola also mentions that the risk factors have gone to affect even as adolescents as a younger set now smoke and people in general are inclined to eat at fastfoods. "If this trend continues, we may have an 'epidemic' of cardiovascular diseases in the next ten to twenty years if not addressed properly. So we taught that prevention through advocating a healthy lifestyle is the way to go. That's why for this year's Lakad Puso, we have also included blood pressure screening and healthy lifestyle counseling among the activities that people can take part in."

New
Nesvita
Pro Heart
ActiCol

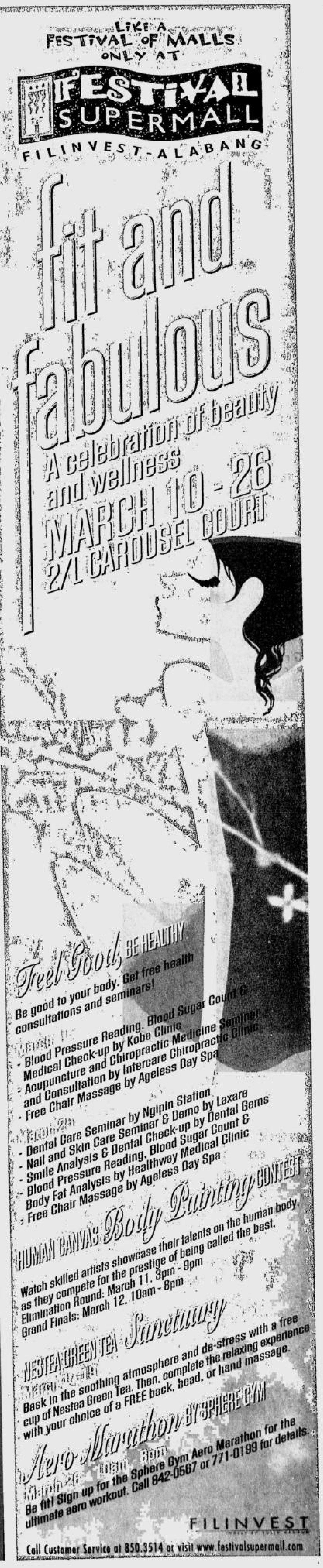
The PHA celebrated Heart Month with Lakad Puso, a walk-for-life campaign that is participated in by medical colleagues, key government figures, pharmaceutical and media people, non-government organizations and affiliate societies as well.

With this year's celebration highlighted as "BP Awareness Day", blood pressure monitoring was held aside from the regular risk factor screenings and basic CPR demonstrations at the Main Heart Fair. Participants were also delighted as they got a taste of Nesvita Pro-Heart, the only milk with Acticol which can help them lower cholesterol and achieve a healthy heart. Incidentally, Mini Heart Fairs with blood pressure monitoring teams of medical and paramedical staff, pharmaceutical companies, and volunteers from Rotary Clubs were also held simultaneously at churches in Metro Manila.

"We can help change the health pattern by introducing HL or healthy lifestyle especially among the youth. That is through the combination of a healthy diet, regular exercise, proper weight, avoidance of stress and cigarette smoking. By empowering people through education, we can help them prevent heart disease or even death," Dr. Abola ends.

The Ritz Tropical Spa

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND PARADISE tropical spa village at the heart of Subic Bay Freeport Zone #76 Bicentennial Park recently opened The Ritz Tropical Spa. Enjoy a relaxing massage in a well-crafted cabana amidst nature and flora with a state-of-the-art Jacuzzi and Sauna, other services offered are body and skin care treatment, foot reflex and salon. Just beside The Ritz Tropical Spa is the newly opened Vietnam Harbor Grill which offers authentic Vietnamese food and Filipino cuisine. Also visit The Ritz Spa main branch located at 1614 M. Adriatico St., Malate Manila.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Hype: Your lifestyle choice

HYPE HAS GARNERED THE BEST FRAGRANCE LINE AND ALSO THE BEST NATURAL SKIN whitening product in the 2005 National Product Quality Excellence Awards. For a relatively new brand, Hype has managed to penetrate the very competitive market of personal care products by offering the best cost/value for discriminating buyers who want top quality at reasonable prices. In fact, dermatological tests have shown that Hype Duo Whitening products are very safe while whitening faster and longer than the leading brands in the market. Hype is available in the leading supermarkets and department store chains.

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Green tea provides a therapeutic solution to skincare by reducing stress, one of the primary causes for dull looking skin.

Tea Tree oil is known worldwide for its antibacterial properties that prevent pimples.

Bearberry extract minimizes and decreases discolorations and pigmentation. Olive oil provides moisture to skin. Atlantica seaweed has the ability to restructure the skin's surface without any visible trace of doing so. It evens out skin tone, minimizes wrinkles and reduces pore size without the need for peeling or irritating dermatological treatments. Vitamin E, which has anti-oxidizing qualities, completes the skin treatment by providing protection from free radicals that destroy the skin with nutrients that enable it to heal faster and promotes growth of healthier skin cells.

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Fitness First Fairview now open

THE NO. 1 GLOBAL FITNESS COMPANY HAS RECENTLY OPENED ITS twelfth club in the Philippines. The new club is located at the LG level of SM City Fairview and is bound to invigorate the city's fitness scene.

Fitness First offers the best facilities, from the cardio theatre, to the group exercise studios, to the latest strength training, core and cardio equipment, luxurious change rooms, sauna and steam. The new club also boasts of the Cinefit, where one can watch a movie while doing a cardio workout; and the Cycling Studio which features spin classes like Cosmic Cycling and RPM.

After an energizing workout, one can visit Body Care, a world-class health and beauty haven blending Western Spa experience with a Cosmopolitan Asian Flavor. Body care offers a full range of beauty and massage treatments including facials, aromatherapy, body wraps, slimming treatments and hand/foot therapy to complete a blissful experience.

Watch out for another new Fitness First club, as construction starts this month in SM Southmall, Las Piñas. This will further add value to the Passport Membership enjoyed by Fitness First members.

Fitness First offers a Passport membership which allows access to over 400 clubs in Asia and Europe. You can also check out the website at www.fitnessfirst.com.ph for more information on its clubs in Alabang, Greenhills, ABS-CBN, Fort Bonifacio, RSC-Makati, Eastwood City, Robinsons Metro East, Ayala Center Cebu, Ortigas, Manila and Fitness First Plus.

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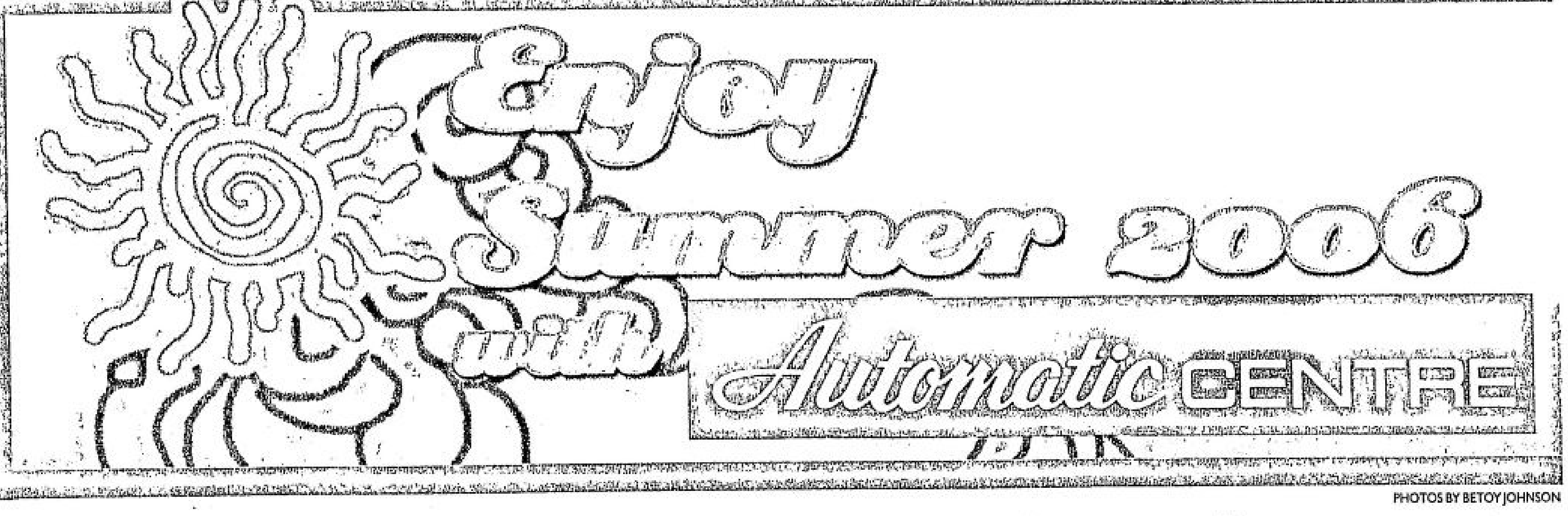
ROBINSONS METRO EAST	646 0000

FitnessFirst

Automatic Centre gears up for the warm months with its exciting line of electronic gadgets and home appliances


Enjoy Summer 2006 with Automatic CENTRE

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Get ready to beat the heat

Everyone is already feeling the heat. Families are already making plans where to go this summer. Group of friends are already doing their route for a long road trip. Shutterbugs are itching to visit the magnificent sights. And homebodies are listing the movies to watch.

People's habits vary whenever summer brings in the tropical heat and unbearable humidity to the Philippines during the months of March to June. Some people opt to stay at home to beat the heat, while others decide to head out to cooler destinations, still other face the heat head-on and enjoy the sun at their favorite beach resort. But no matter how you decide to spend Summer 2006, a visit to one of the many Automatic Centre outlets is a must as the "Appliance Authority" offers an array of products that will surely make this summer enjoyable and memorable.

Be it in the beach, in the mountains, on the road, or just at home, your vacation's got to be full of exciting things to do. Don't let that moment pass without you capturing these moments so always keep your trusted gadgets handy.

Shutterbugs

There are so many beautiful scenic spots in the country but nothing compares to that smile of a child basking in the sun, playing in the waters, and building his or her first sand castle. Will you let this moment go by? And it is even more rewarding to see that photograph instantly to share with loved ones in other places.

Digital cameras have become more affordable for everyone to appreciate the technolo-

AUTOMATIC/ F2

Digital cameras have become more affordable for everyone to appreciate the technology. From the (now) low 3.1 megapixels, there are digital cameras that offer an 8-megapixel resolution. So if you are a hobbyist or a professional photographer, there is a wide selection of digital cameras to choose from

SONY like.no.other™

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Get ready to beat the heat

Enjoy Summer 2006 with Automatic CENTRE

From page F1

gy. From the (now) low 3.1 megapixels, there are digital cameras that offer an 8-megapixel resolution. So if you are a hobbyist or a professional photographer, there is a wide selection of digital cameras to choose from.

Find Canon, Casio, Kodak, Nikon, Olympus, Panasonic, Pentax, Sony and a lot more cameras at Automatic Centre branches throughout Metro Manila.

Film it

While still shots make for a perfect documentation of your travel, and the chance for people to display their artistic abilities, capturing the happy gathering on film would be a perfect long-term "keepsake."

The latest video cameras in the market get more and more advanced. Others are getting smaller and handy too. What are capturing the people's fancy nowadays are the camcorders that come in with a hard disk. While others record on mini or DVDs that can be plugged directly to various media like a television set or a personal computer to view the contents.

In this case, Automatic Centre's camera specialists would be glad to introduce you to the latest camcorders or video cameras available in the market. Whatever recording medium you prefer (mini-DV, DVD or hard-disk), Automatic Centre makes sure that you don't miss a thing this summer by getting your hands on a brand new camcorder at very reasonable prices at affordable payment terms and with fabulous freebies.

Play it

Children don't have much tolerance with long trips. They easily get bored and don't have much patience to wait. But wonderful places to visit are far off the city. To ward off that boredom, bring your own portable DVD players and let them enjoy their favorite cartoons on board. Take your favorite movies with you and watch it where you are staying. Sometimes, there are activities that other family members want that you don't. So don't feel left-out because you still have tons of movies to watch while waiting for them.

AUTOMATIC/ F4

When you just want to board a bus and enjoy traveling at night, lull yourself to sleep with music from your iPod or MP3 player

DLP Projection TV
Irresistibly Real
TOSHIBA
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TOSHIBA

What is a DLP Projection Television?

Digital Light Processing display technology was developed by Texas Instruments using DMD (Digital Micro-mirror Devices) chip to produce signal, usually used in gigantic screen size. The new Toshiba DLP Projection TV produce larger than life images that let you virtually own a personal cinema.

Why is a DLP Projection TV a better choice?

DLP images are known for their crisp detail, smooth motion, and excellent color accuracy and consistency and are probably the most resistant to screen burn-in. The clarity and smoothness of the picture are almost at par with CRT TV, the major difference is the size and weight, DLP TV is approximately 40 percent slimmer and 60 percent lighter.

When most of the display devices in the market are displaying at maximum 1080i or 720p high definition signals, the Toshiba xHD4 DMD is able to reproduce 1080p resolution. Incoming signal are up-converted into the ultra high resolution in progressive scan to display every nuance in details.

How can you prolong the life-span of a DLP TV?

An AVR (Automatic Voltage Regulator) should be used to protect the unit from power fluctuation. The sudden variation of voltage may cause damage to the sensitive electronic device. The unit should be placed in a ventilated area, to minimize the condensation on the lenses resulting in picture distortion or color fading; the unit should not be powered on and off simultaneously, in order to prolong the life span of the lamp.

TOSHIBA
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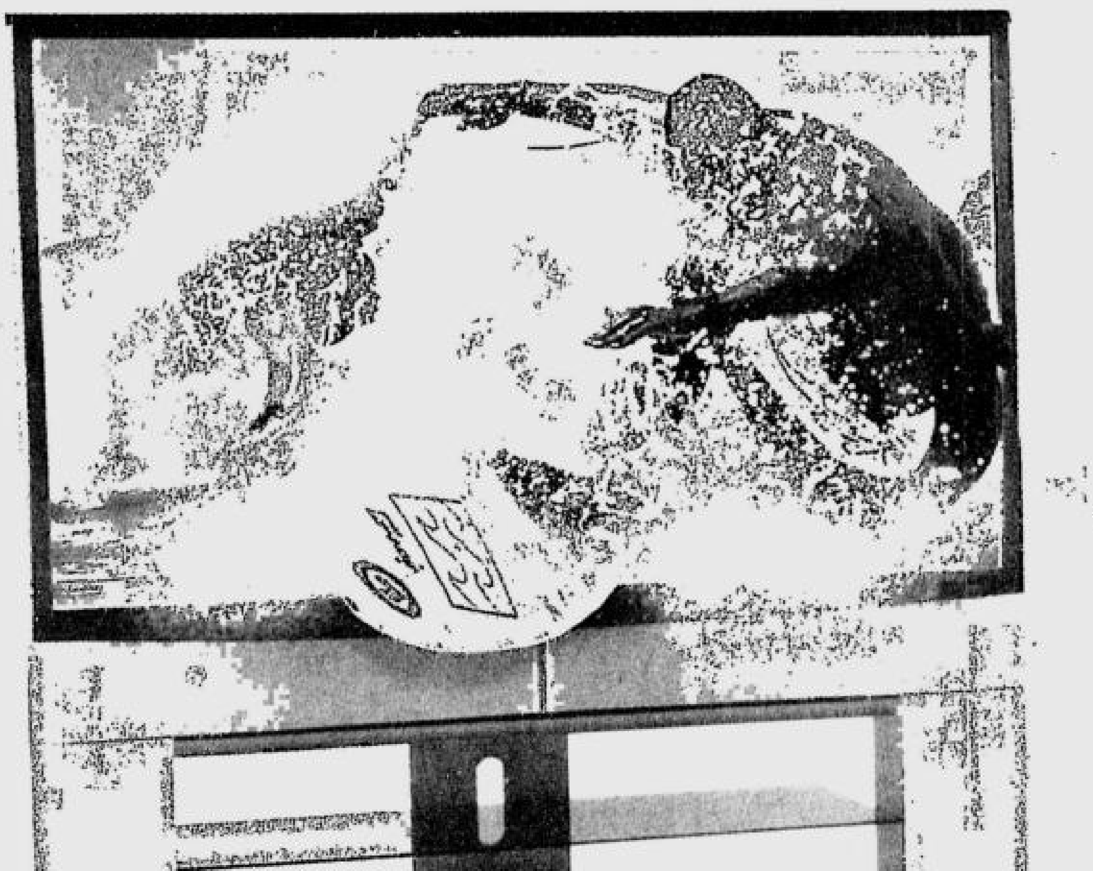
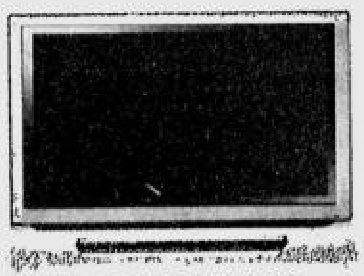
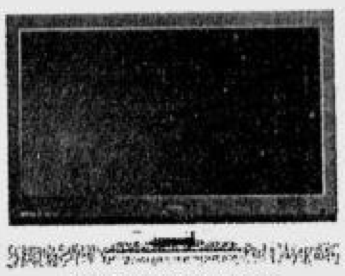

DLP™ Projection TV 72CM9UE

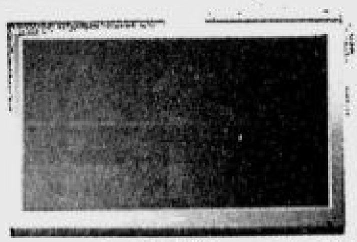
GIANT WAVE OF TECHNOLOGY

Ride the biggest wave of Toshiba's latest breakthrough in TV technology – the new 72CM9UE DLP™ Projection TV, the BIGGEST SCREEN size in the market today. It's larger than life images let you virtually own a home theater.

Plus! Catch our ongoing exhibit at BPI Installment Madness, Glorietta Activity Center from March 15 to April 2, 2006. Surprise GIVEAWAYS await customers for every purchase of Toshiba's products!


PLASMA TV 42WP56E


LCD TV 42/32WL58E


LCD TV 42WL55E

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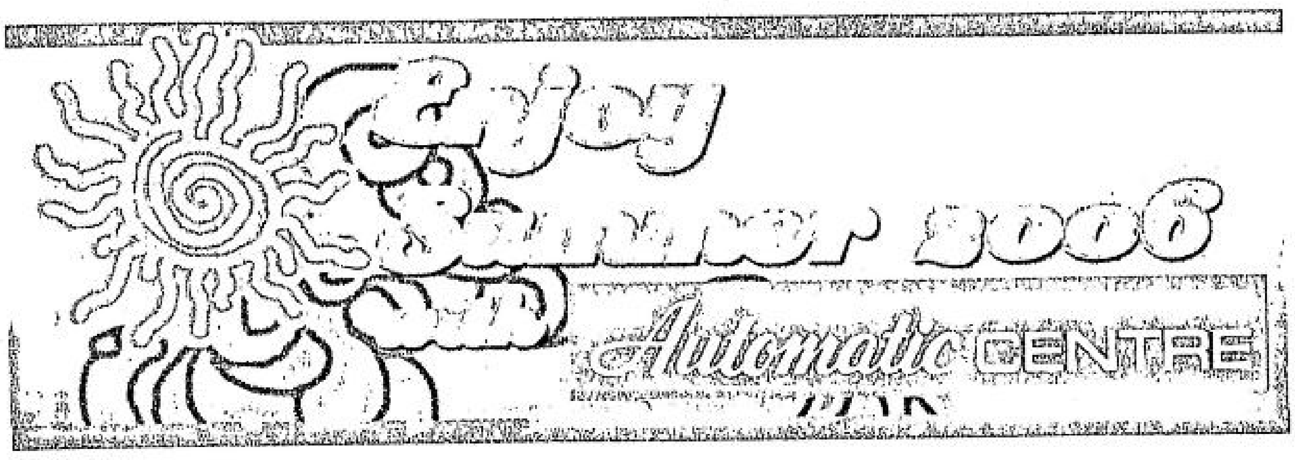

Automatic Centre has the perfect solution to keep you and your family entertained whether in a car, on a boat or in a plane. Sometimes, moments captured in photos just aren't enough. In this case, Automatic Centre's camera specialists would be glad to introduce you to the latest camcorders or video cameras available in the market

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There are three models to choose from: the very affordable Silver Fiesta 2006 Edition that promises a guaranteed fiesta celebration; Mabuhay 2006 Edition, with its external video source function that allows you to connect to any video source (e.g. video camera so you can see yourself singing like a real pro, or the VCD/DVD player so you can watch your favorite movie as you sing); and the Papuri 2006 Edition, the Videoke and bible in one that contains 1065 built-in Christian songs and Church Hymn and the New International Version of the Bible - ideal for fellowships, Bible studies, prayer meetings, worship service, retreats and other Church activities. With any of these WOW Magic Sing models, you can enjoy singing with your family and friends and turn an ordinary day into an hour of endless videoke fun and experience.

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ED8000
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- USB Ready
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ED9000
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- Contains 1,065 Hymns & Christian Songs
- External Video Source
- USB Ready
- Select soprano, alto, tenor or bass key
- Select organ and/or piano as accompaniment

EX7800
WIRELESS DUET MIC
(Optional)

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A Collection of 958 Favorite Songs!
630 OPM Songs, 312 English Songs and 16 Spanish Songs

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Digital IXUS i Zoom:

Manila's must-have gadget for 2006

AS IN OTHER ENDEAVORS, many are called but only a few are chosen. In fashion, many fearlessly attempt to make the grade but only a select few come out of the test looking fabulously victorious.

Such is the case of the beautiful IXUS i Zoom-the enviable incarnation of the Digital IXUS i series. Looking all sleek and stylish at the same time, it's usually mentioned in the same breath as Frederick Peralta, Randy Ortiz, Dong-Omaga Diaz, Vittorio, Gerry Katigbak, Rajo Laurel and company in this fashionable side of the world.

When the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines set off the Philippine Fashion Trends 2006 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, IXUS i Zoom took on the runway as the show opener, the lone electronic gadget hailed as next season's most fashionable gadget.

The new IXUS i Zoom is clever, shiny and joyously classy. How can stylish Manila resist? It's got a chrome-finished metal casing that come in four sparkling colors of Cranberry Red, Ultra Violet, Jet black and Sahara Blonde that's slender and compact enough to fit in the palm of your hand.

If the clothes paraded on the runway that night were marked by volume, this nifty little thing is also packed with volume all right - certainly not in terms of weight but with all the interesting and high-lifestyle-perfect features that have become standard in all Canon digital cameras.

To start off, it's worth mentioning that this is a 5.0-megapixel digital camera, allowing you to print photos as. It's powered by DIGIC II-Canon's second generation imaging processor, which accelerates processing speeds, improves autofocus precision, and enhances color reproduction, empowering the IXUS i Zoom to capture exceptional images.

The IXUS i Zoom features a first for IXUS i Series cameras-a retractable 2.4x optical zoom with UA lens technology. Viewing the photos as well as initially playing back movies have been made easy with its 1.8-inch LCD monitor. With all these superb optics technologies, imagine the captivating sharpness and clarity of your images.

What makes it even more enjoyable is the camera docking station that allows you to print directly to any Pictbridge compatible printer, view photos while connected to a TV, and download photos to a computer-do all these from across the room with the handy wireless controller that's included in the package. For maximum viewing pleasure, built-in transition effects may even be applied to captured photos.

It also allows the users to be his own fashion photographer by using the My Colors Function which allows users to customize colors while shooting in both still and movie modes. Users will now be able to make specific colors more vibrant, lighten or darken skin tones automatically, and create a variety of color effects without using a computer. Being a fashion designer is even made easier with the Color Swap function that most users find handy and fun.

With the Digital IXUS i Zoom proclaimed as the must-have gadget for 2006, high fashion never really looked this good.

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Check which one comes with your favorite digital camera.

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3x optical zoom
Only ₱26,500
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7.1 megapixels
3x optical zoom
Before: 32,950
Now only ₱29,995
*Free Camera Case, 128MB Kingston SD card, MP3 Player / Card Reader Combo

PowerShot A410
3.2 megapixels
3.2x optical zoom
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4.0 megapixels
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Now only ₱15,950
*Free Camera Case, USB SD Card Reader

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5.0 megapixels
4x optical zoom
Only ₱21,950
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3.6x optical zoom
Only ₱35,950
*Free Camera Case, MP3 Player / Card Reader Combo, 128MB Kingston SD Card

PowerShot S2 IS
5.0 megapixels
12x optical zoom
Only ₱35,950
*Free MP3 Player / Card Reader Combo

PowerShot Pro1
8.0 megapixels
7x optical zoom
Only ₱59,950
*Free MP3 Player / Card Reader Combo

Promo Period: February 11 to March 31, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.[illegible] Series of 2006.

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.
2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tels.: 884-9000 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

Get ready to beat the heat

Enjoy
Summer 2006
with
Automatic CENTRE

Automatic CENTRE

From page F2

When you just want to board a bus and enjoy traveling at night, lull yourself to sleep with music from your iPod or MP3 player. Load them up with various types of music that will suit your move during your trip.

Automatic Centre has the perfect solution to keep you and your family entertained whether in a car, on a boat or in a plane. Equip yourself with digital music players from iPod and Creative and listen to your favorite songs. Better yet enjoy a movie on your portable lcd-dvd players from Audiovox and Nextbase.

Watch it

Because you missed most of the movies in the past year simply because your working hours or school work don't match with theater schedules, it is the time of the year to load up your Hollywood and local film cravings.

To take your home-stay to another level consult an audio-video specialist at any Automatic Centre outlet to help you set up your own home theater system. From the simplest to truly cinema quality systems, Automatic Centre can help find the solution right for you.

And to have that theater feeling, several home theater systems are now reasonably priced. Manufacturers are getting more aggressive in giving people the better technology. Plasma TVs, DLP, LCD, can now be purchased at reasonable terms with offers like 0-percent interest for up to 24 months.

Cool it

But can you enjoy the best movies of last year when

AUTOMATIC/ F5

Automatic Centre has great deals on the latest cooling appliances including air-conditioners from trusted brands such as Carrier, Condura, Kelvinator, Panasonic and many more

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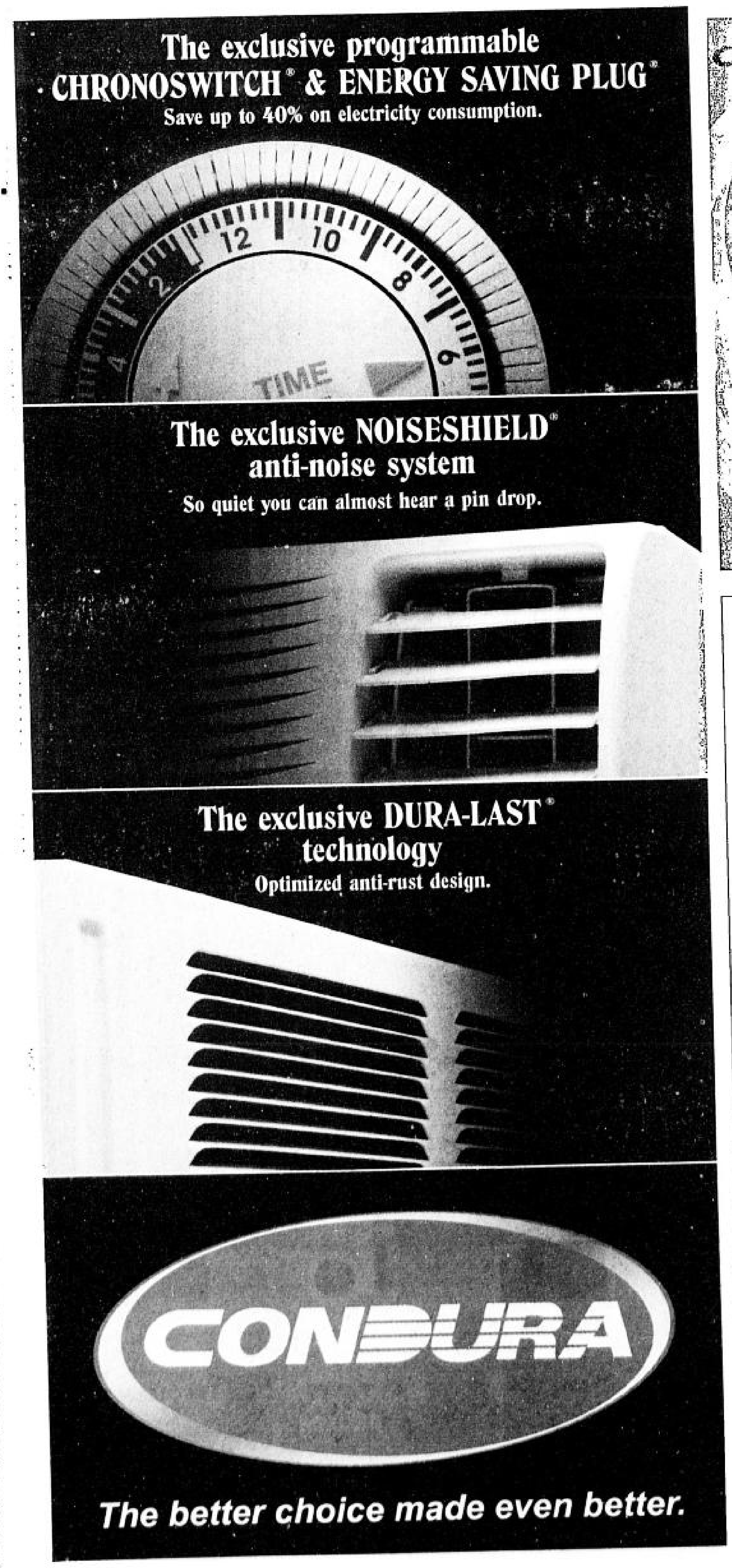
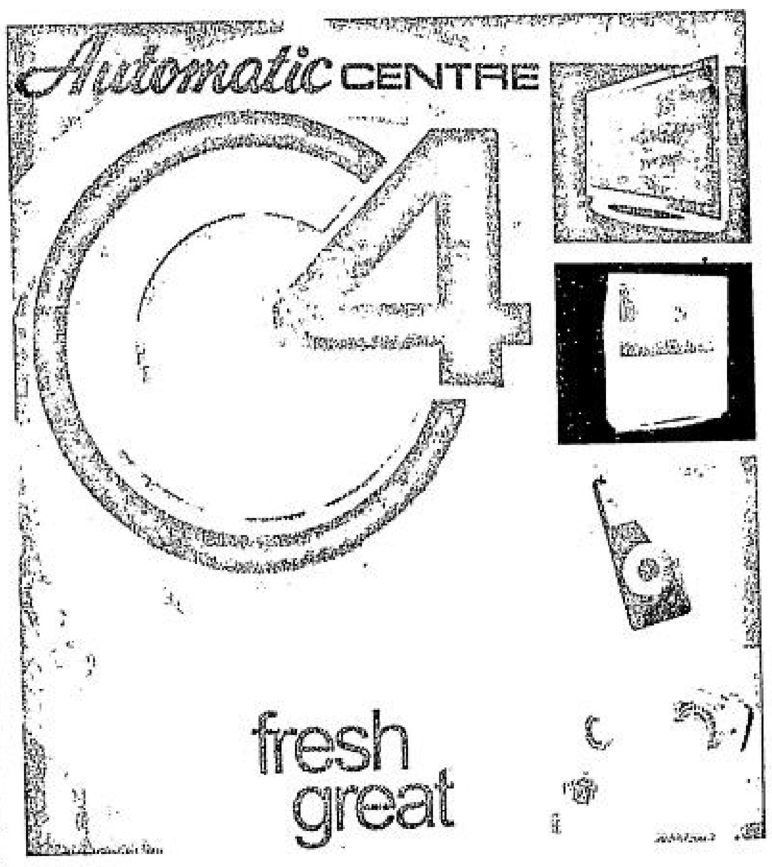

The exclusive programmable
CHRONOSWITCH® & ENERGY SAVING PLUG®
Save up to 40% on electricity consumption.
12
10
8
6
4
2
TIME
The exclusive NOISESHIELD®
anti-noise system
So quiet you can almost hear a pin drop.
The exclusive DURA-LAST®
technology
Optimized anti-rust design.
CONDURA
The better choice made even better.


Automatic CENTRE
fresh
great

Participating brands are Canon, Carrier, Panasonic, Sony, Toshiba, Magic Sing and Whirlpool

Concepcion-Carrier Air Conditioning Company

Condura Energy Saving Plug (ESP)

After a hard day's work, nothing beats a good night's sleep. Especially during these summer months, the cooling comfort we get from our window room air conditioners is a necessity.

Even with the rising costs of electricity coupled with the implementation of RVAT, Condura Window Room Air Conditioners lets you enjoy cooling comfort without having to worry about excessively high electric bills.

The Condura's high EER (energy efficiency ratio) ensures low electricity consumption as the unit works.

The exclusive programmable Chronoswitch provides the convenience of not having to get up in the middle of the night to turn off your unit.

The use of the Condura's Energy Saving Plug (ESP) in tandem with the Chronoswitch provides for even more possibilities in terms of electricity cost savings.

The ESP is easy to use. Simply plug an electric fan to the ESP and set the Chronoswitch. When the Chronoswitch turns the air conditioner off, the electric fan automatically turns on. You can save as much as 40 percent on your electric bill.

The Condura with its high EER and exclusive Chronoswitch and ESP is the best way to beat the summer heat.

Condura window room air conditioners are truly the better choice made even better.

Get ready to beat the heat

Enjoy Summer 2006 with
Automatic CENTRE

From page F4

you're sweating and incessantly fanning yourself because of the heat? The "hottest" product during the warm months is the one that "cools" you down.

Survive the heat with a new air conditioner. Split-type air conditioners are now much preferred by some households. Why? It is much quieter and offers a host of features that improve the quality of the air.

Aside from that, it is space saving. Some brands have come up with a new product which instantly cleans itself at given days. So you don't have to clean the filter!

Some split-type air conditioners already have ionizers, filters, and other features that fight off air pollution. Sometimes, air inside the house or office is more polluted because it doesn't have the chance to circulate. One of the main reasons manufacturers developed these features.

Some brand available at the Automatic Centre offers free installation of split-type aircons.

Automatic Centre has great deals on the latest cooling appliances including air-conditioners from trusted brands such as Carrier, Condura, Kelvinator, Kolin, LG, Panasonic, Samsung and many more.

Make your stay at home even cozier, by bringing home fantastic refrigerator and freezer finds that are sure to keep your favorite drinks and refreshments ice-cold and fresh under the scorching heat of summer. Global brands Fisher & Paykel, Fridgidaire, Whirlpool and White-Westinghouse are just a few of the choices that are available at your "Appliance Authority."

There is so much to do and so many gadgets and appliances to choose from the activity you intend to do.

AUTOMATIC/ F6

> Make your stay at home even cozier, by bringing home fantastic refrigerator and freezer finds that are sure to keep your favorite drinks and refreshments ice-cold and fresh under the scorching heat of summer

Panasonic
ideas for life

Automatically cleans itself.

True idea

More than cool. More than clean. Panasonic Air Conditioners. No more troublesome filter cleaning with the Panasonic Split type XC Series' **Auto Clean Robot!** It automatically cleans the filter so it keeps functioning like it's new and mantains the unit's energy-saving performance. You get nothing but cool, clean, healthy air for your family.

The pad on the nozzle rubs the dust from the filter mesh.

The trapped dust is then vacuumed and exhausted through the vacuum duct.

Pad:
The brush rubs dust from the filter.

Suction port:
The rubbed off dust is vacuumed.

Self-cleaning function mantains its original airflow volume as when it was brand new.

No filter maintenance will cause air volume to drop 25% in 1 year, 50% in 3 years

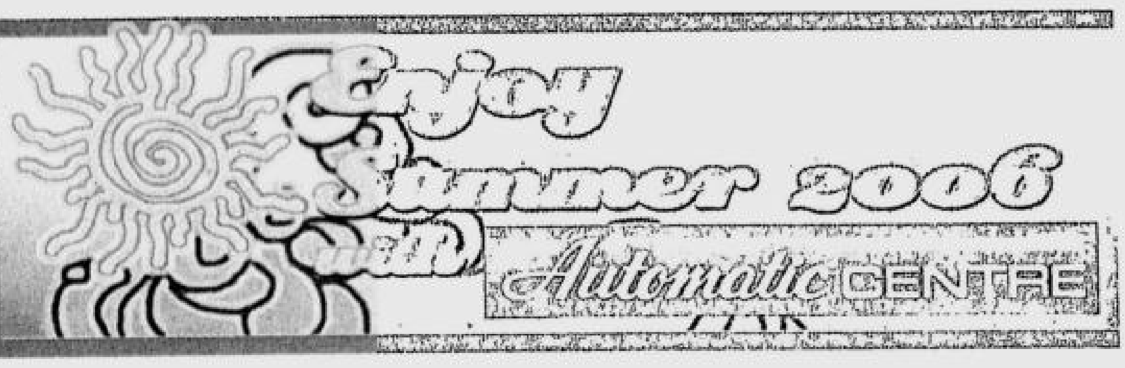
CS/U - XC9EKQ
CS/U - XC12EKQ

- High EER (Energy Efficiency Ratio) As high as 12.6 kJ/Wh
- Super Quiet - As low as 23dB -
- 5-year Warranty on Compressor

AC Robot

www.panasonic.com.ph

Get ready to beat the heat

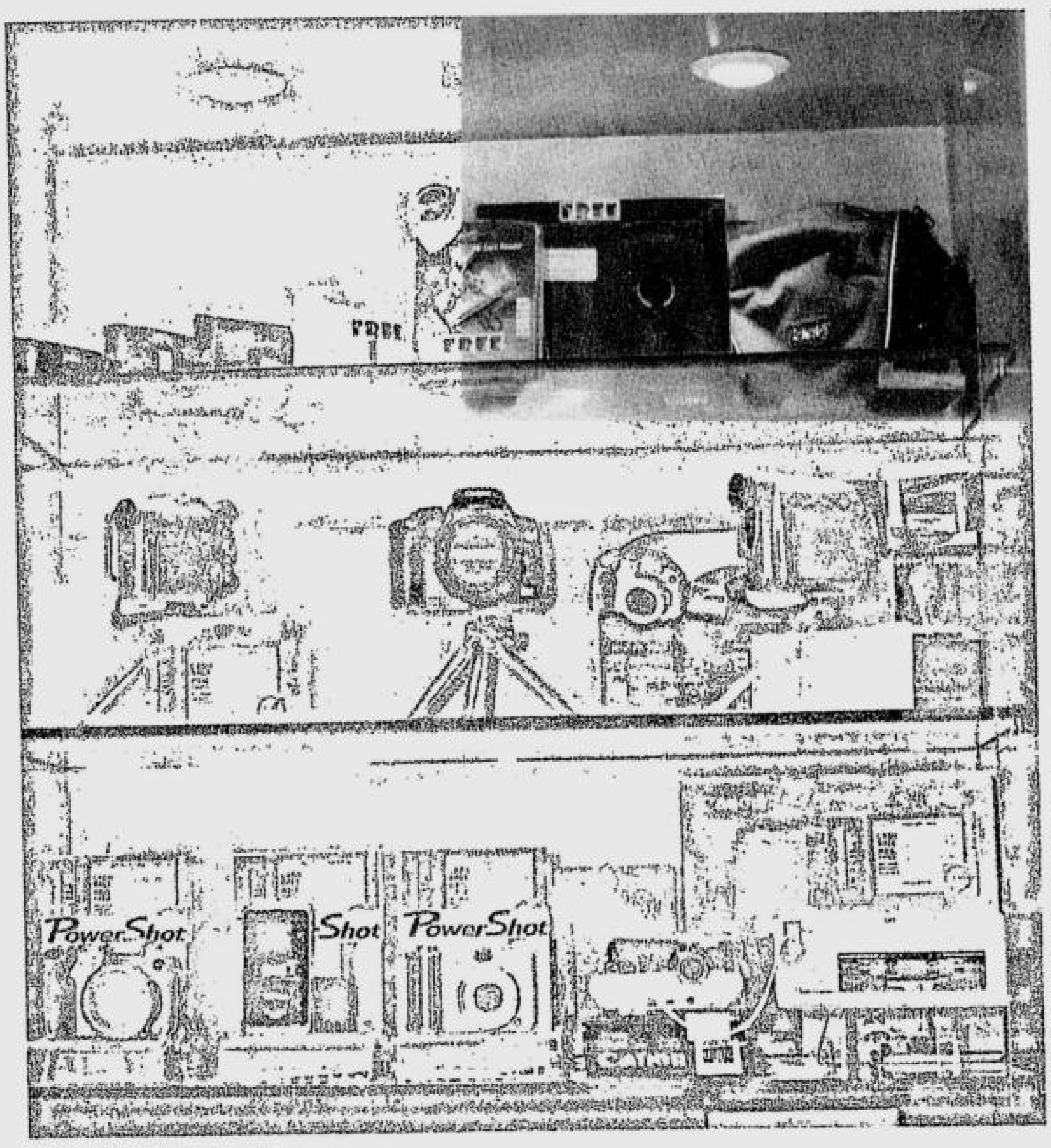


From page F5

Automatic Centre, now on its 58th year, has 16 branches nationwide. It offers everything and anything you need this summer for the home, the office, or on the road.

Automatic Centre has been making summers enjoyable for Filipinos over the past 58 years. Established in 1948, the Appliance Authority understands the varying needs of consumers and always strives to find a solution appropriate for specific customer needs. Visit one of its branches and talk to its people to find out how to make the most of your Summer 2006.

Make this summer vacation exciting with a lineup of activities with family and friends. Have more fun than you intend to have with the handy, pocket electronic gadgets, home and office appliances available at Automatic Centre.



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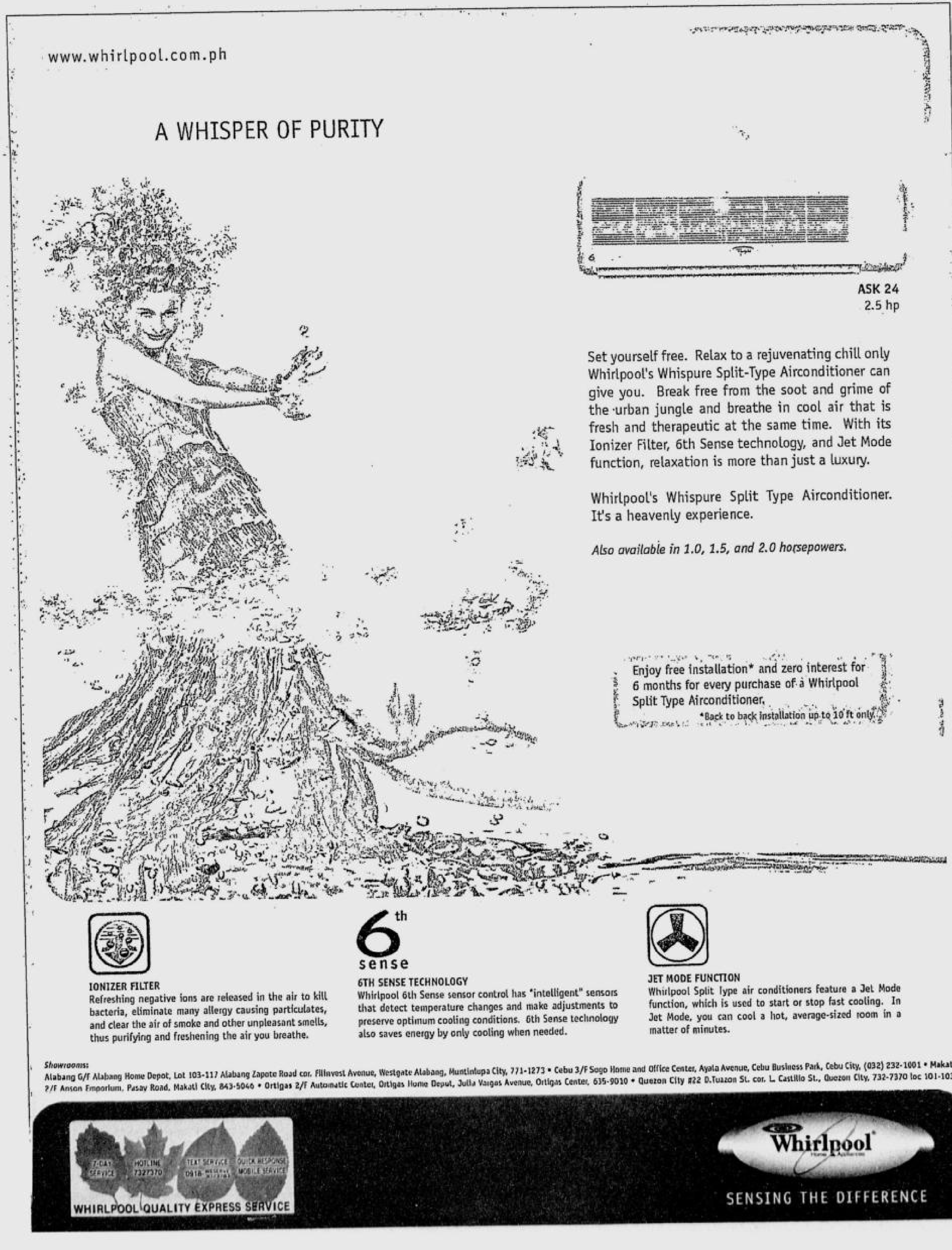
www.whirlpool.com.ph

A WHISPER OF PURITY

ASK 24
2.5 hp

Set yourself free. Relax to a rejuvenating chill only Whirlpool's Whispure Split-Type Airconditioner can give you. Break free from the soot and grime of the urban jungle and breathe in cool air that is fresh and therapeutic at the same time. With its Ionizer Filter, 6th Sense technology, and Jet Mode function, relaxation is more than just a luxury.

Whirlpool's Whispure Split Type Airconditioner. It's a heavenly experience.

Also available in 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0 horsepowers.

Enjoy free installation* and zero interest for 6 months for every purchase of a Whirlpool Split Type Airconditioner.
*Back to back installation up to 10 ft only.

IONIZER FILTER
Refreshing negative ions are released in the air to kill bacteria, eliminate many allergy causing particulates, and clear the air of smoke and other unpleasant smells, thus purifying and freshening the air you breathe.

6th sense
6TH SENSE TECHNOLOGY
Whirlpool 6th Sense sensor control has "intelligent" sensors that detect temperature changes and make adjustments to preserve optimum cooling conditions. 6th Sense technology also saves energy by only cooling when needed.

JET MODE FUNCTION
Whirlpool Split Type air conditioners feature a Jet Mode function, which is used to start or stop fast cooling. In Jet Mode, you can cool a hot, average-sized room in a matter of minutes.

Showrooms:
Alabang G/F Alabang Home Depot, Lot 103-117 Alabang Zapote Road cor. Filinvest Avenue, Westgate Alabang, Muntinlupa City, 771-1273 • Cebu 3/F Sogo Home and Office Center, Ayala Avenue, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City, (032) 232-1001 • Makati 2/F Anson Emporium, Pasay Road, Makati City, 843-5046 • Ortigas 2/F Automatic Center, Ortigas Home Depot, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, 635-9010 • Quezon City #22 D.Tuazon St. cor. L. Castillo St., Quezon City, 732-7370 loc 101-103

7-DAY SERVICE · HOTLINE 7327370 · TEXT SERVICE 0918- · QUICK RESPONSE MOBILE SERVICE
WHIRLPOOL QUALITY EXPRESS SERVICE

Whirlpool Home Appliances
SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

Whirlpool
SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

THE WORLD OF WHIRLPOOL

Overall efficiency and elegance has never been executed as effectively as Whirlpool has. Producing appliances that feature top of the line functions and stylish designs, Whirlpool has definitely earned its rank as one of the widely used home appliances both here and in the United States. Whirlpool appliances are not only elegant; they also do functional marvels in your home. Welcome to the world of Whirlpool.

A Whirlpool refrigerator is the definition of cool. Equipped with 360° Surround Cool and Quick Cooling Systems, our refrigerators generate and even-out temperature in no time at all. Appearance wise, our classy design exudes sophistication. We have designed a sleek look for our refrigerators by producing contoured doors, handles and edges with a smooth, high-gloss finish; thus breaking the old and boxy look of traditional appliances.

As for microwave ovens, Whirlpool designed them to be as compact as they are efficient. Whirlpool microwave ovens cook and heat your food in an instant. Aside from their standard functions, Whirlpool Microwave Ovens also have a Quartz Grilling function that is perfect for all your roasts and barbeques. Moreover, a Double Emission System comes with these microwave ovens to ensure perfectly even-cooking without leaving any cold spots. Enjoy indoor grilling and microwave cooking like no other with Whirlpool Microwave Ovens.

Now when it comes to keeping it clean, Whirlpool Washers are revolutions ahead of competition. With speeds reaching up to 750rpm, Whirlpool Washers remove dirt - providing you with the whitest white possible. Our washers have different cleaning actions; each built for various washing and cleaning needs.

Function and flair -- definitely the two elements that make a Whirlpool Home Appliance. Take home a Whirlpool appliance now and sense the difference.

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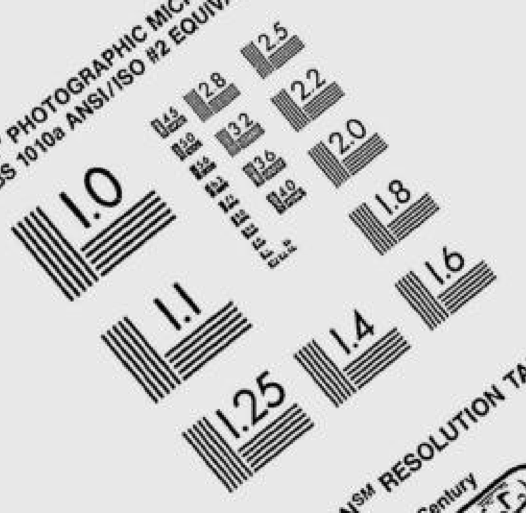
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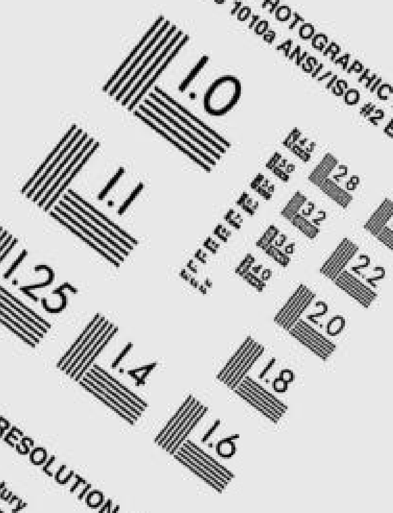
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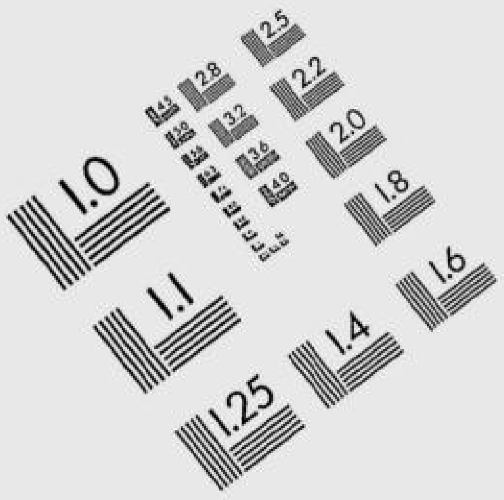
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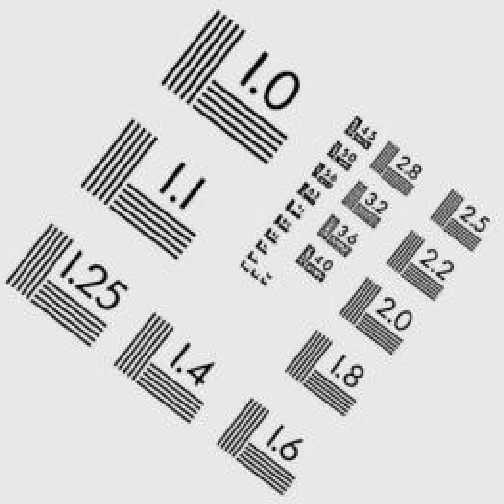
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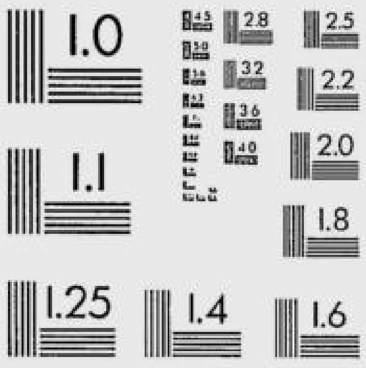
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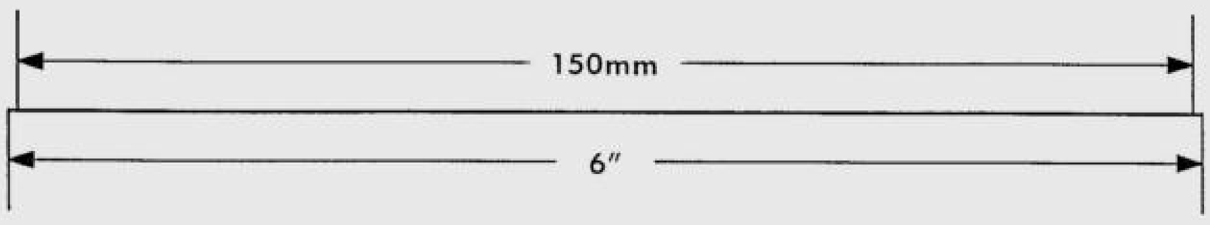

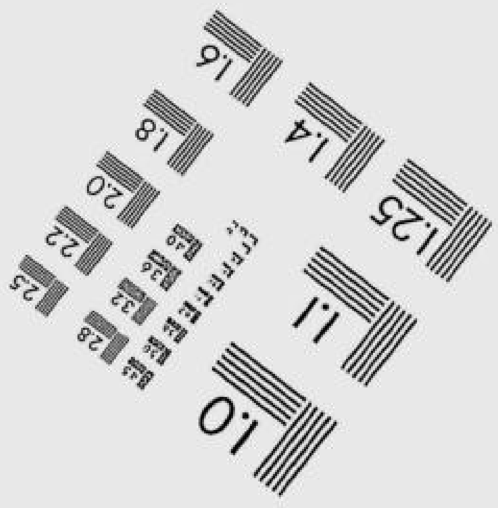
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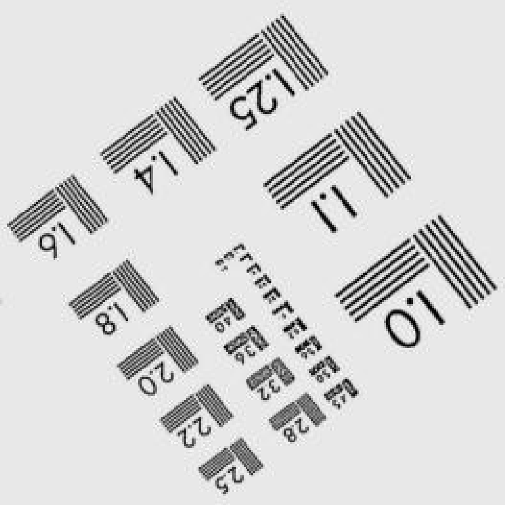
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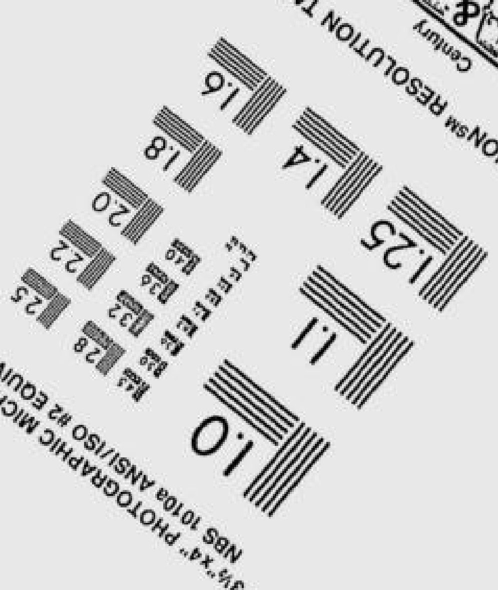
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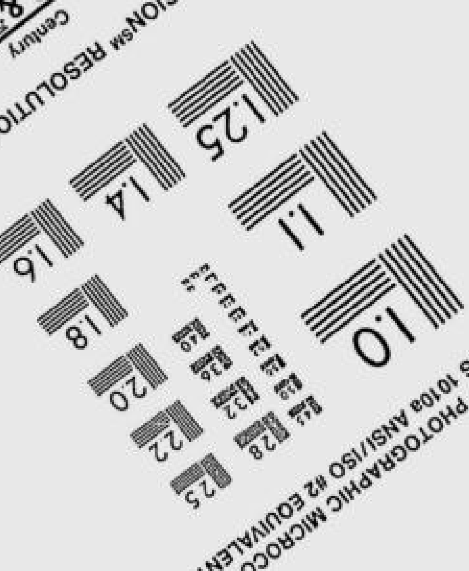
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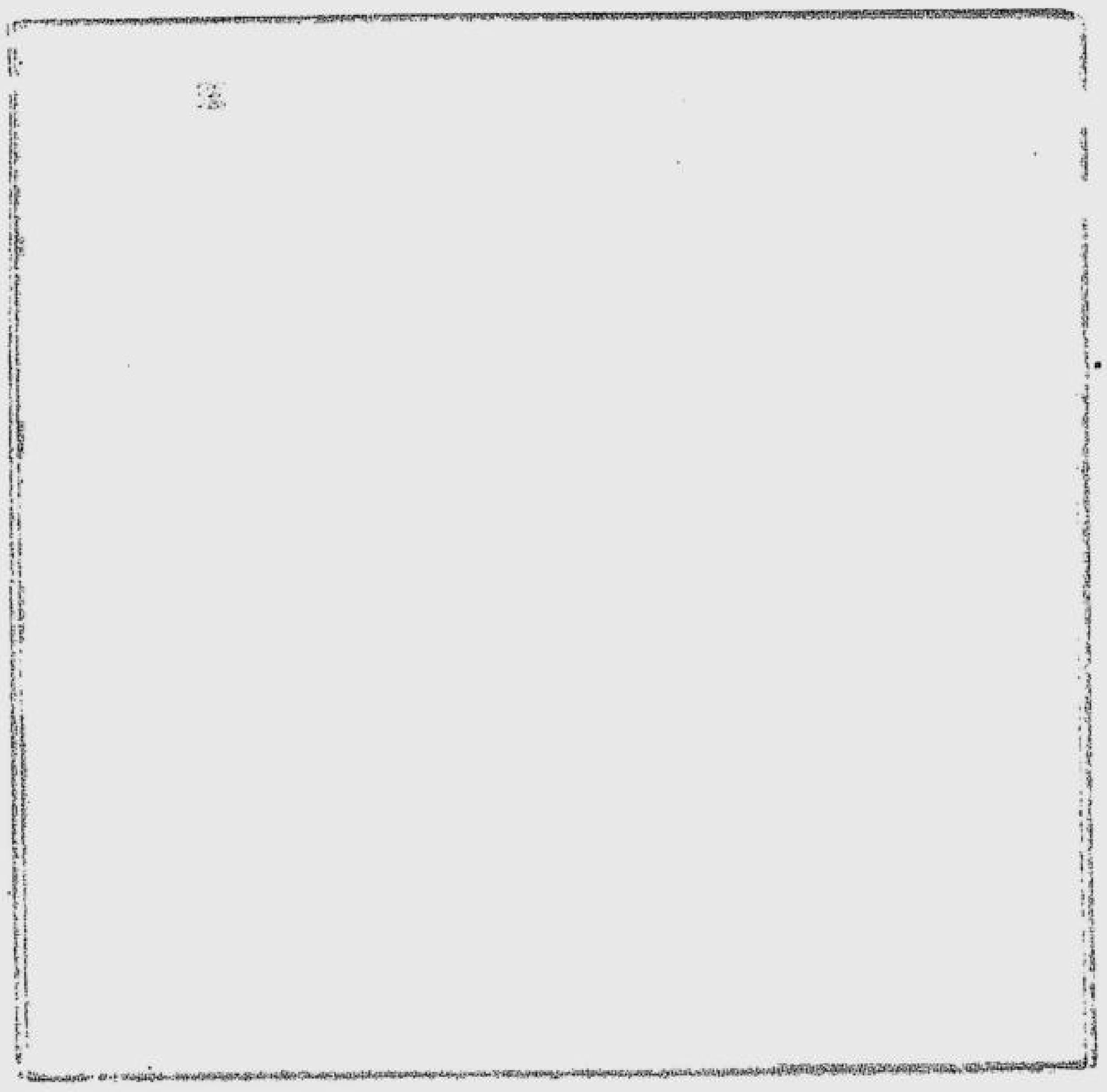

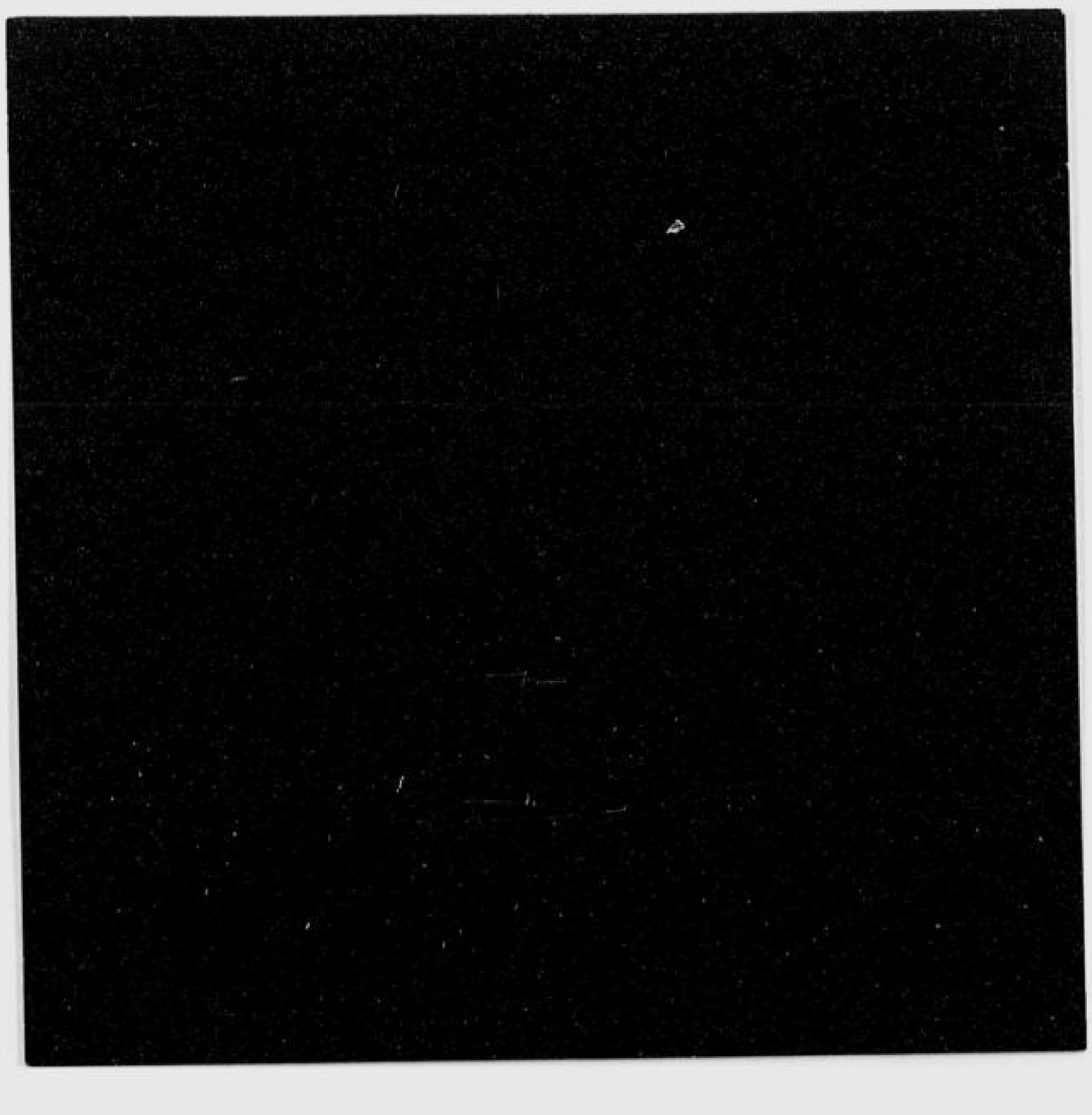

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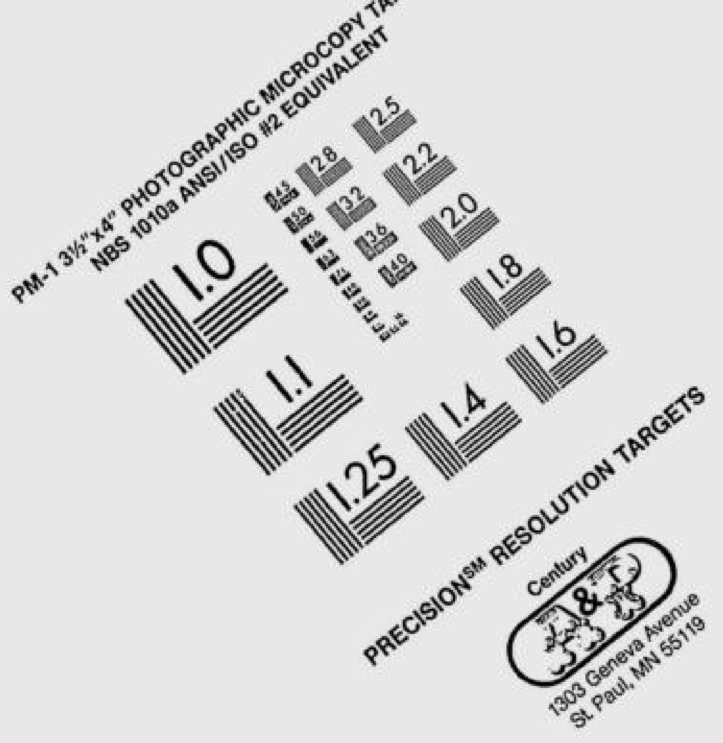
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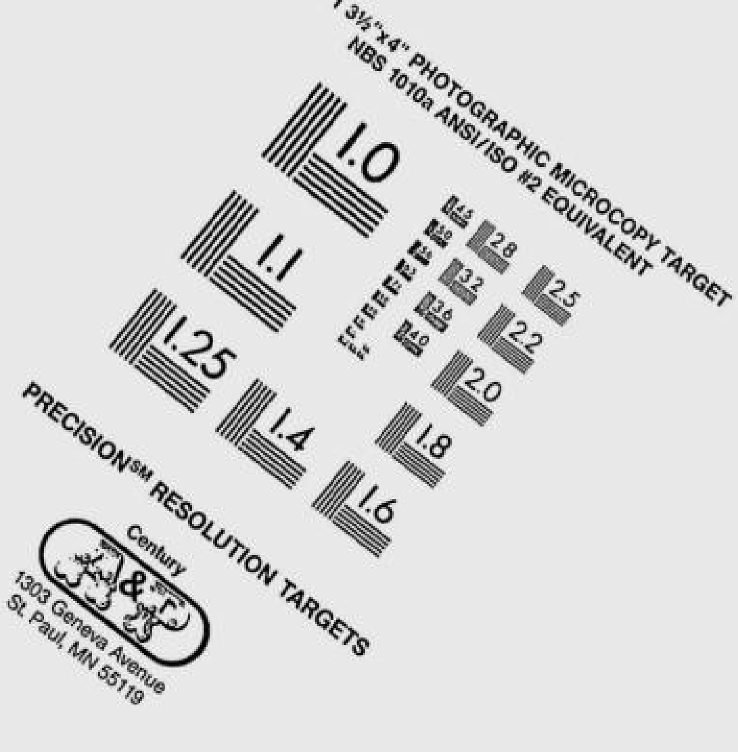
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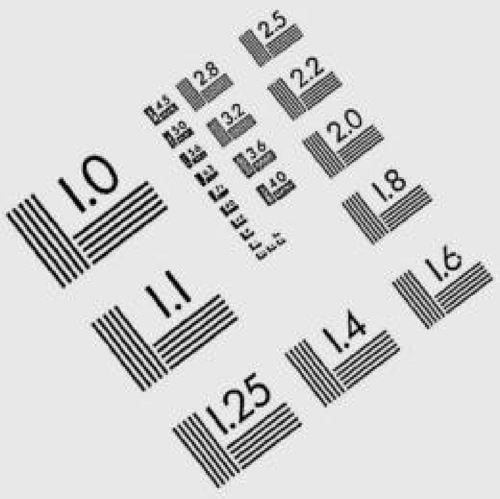
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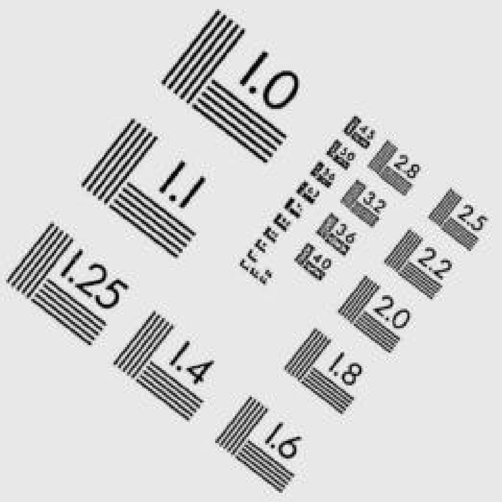
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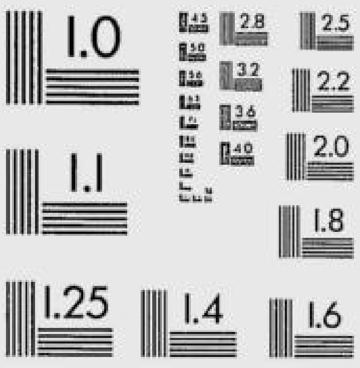
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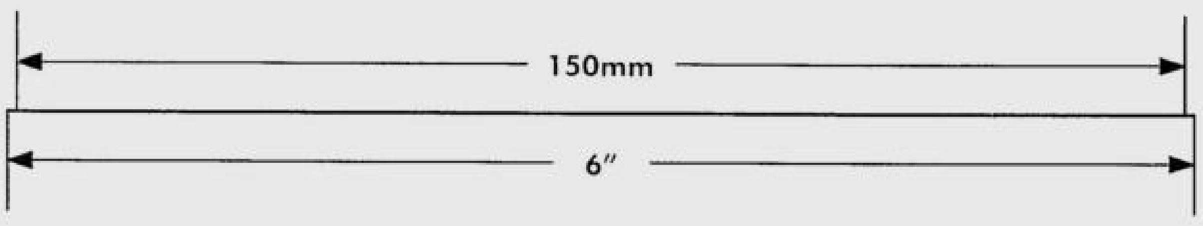

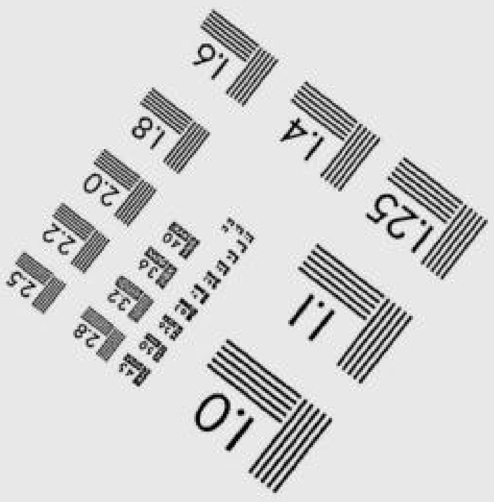
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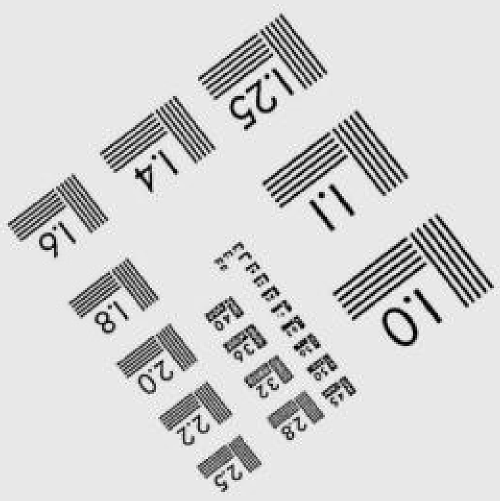
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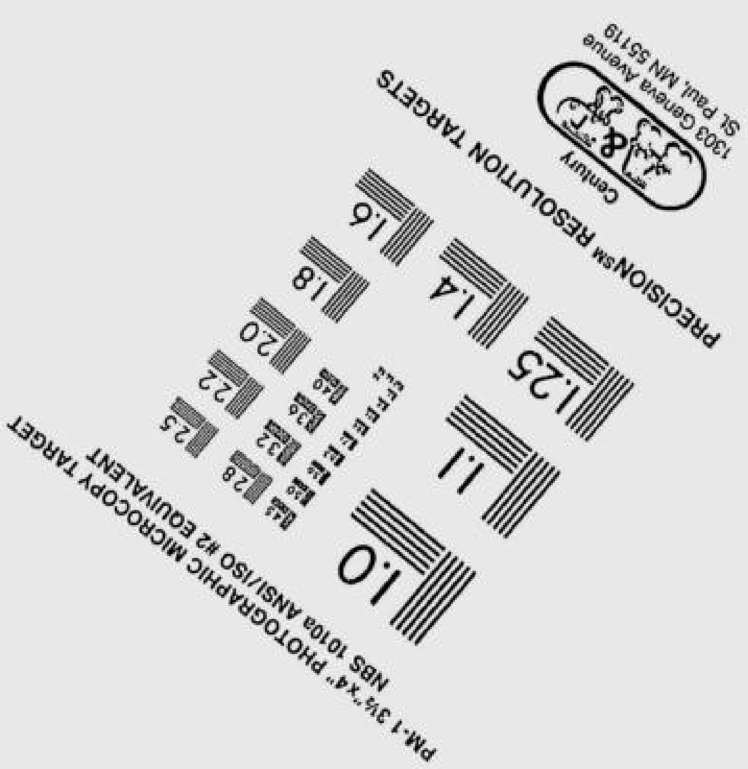
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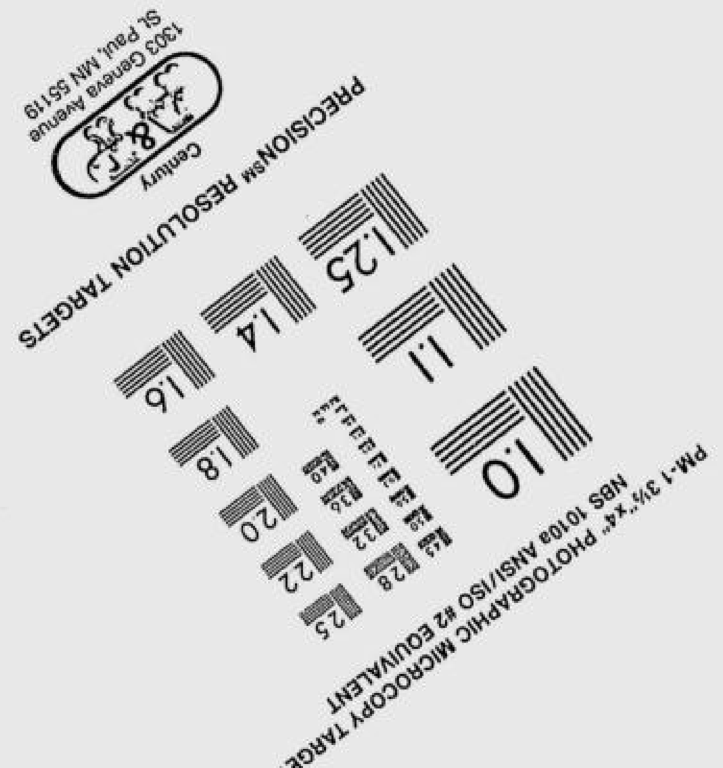
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